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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Letter dated 26 February 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to forward herewith the following documents of the African Union:

(a) Decisions and declaration adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its fourteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 January 2009 (see annex I);

(b) Decisions, declarations, message of congratulations and motion adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its twelfth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 February 2009 (see annex II).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (a).

(*Signed*) Ibrahim O. A. **Dabbashi**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the
Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex I to the letter dated 26 February 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Decisions and declaration adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its fourteenth ordinary session

26-30 January 2009
Addis Ababa

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DECISION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE AFRICAN UNION FOR THE 2009 FINANCIAL YEAR
Doc. EX.CL/455 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **APPROVES** the Budget of the African Union (AU) for the Financial Year 2009 amounting to US$ 164,256,817 to be distributed as follows:

   i) A total amount of US$ 93,804,243 assessed to Member States on the basis of the approved Scale of Assessment;

   ii) A total amount of US$ 57,412,574 earmarked for the programmes secured from International Partners;

   iii) An amount of 13,040,000 to be financed from forty percent (40%) of the Surpluses from the Year 2004 to 2007 Budgets;

2. **APPROVES** the Budget breakdown between the AU Organs as follows:

	Operational Budget in (US$)	Programs Budget in (US$)	Total in (US$)
Pan African Parliament (PAP)	9,535,477	3,943,447	13,478,924
African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)	2,376,639	1,295,127	3,671,766
African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR)	6,892,269	750,000	7,642,269
Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)	1,606,500	-	1,606,500
African Union Commission(AUC)	75,164,886	62,692,472	137,857,358
Total	**95,575,771**	**68,681,046**	**164,256,817**

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop templates for budget formulation and presentation, and submit them to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through its Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters for consideration;

4. **DECIDES** that all AU Organs, namely PAP, ACHPR, AfCHPR and ECOSOCC shall work closely with the Commission in the preparation of their respective budgets to ensure that they comply with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the AU Staff Rules and Regulations, as well as the standardized templates of budget formulation and presentation;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that ledger codes of budgets of all AU Organs are standardised;

6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Office of the Internal Audit of the Commission to periodically audit the accounts of all other AU Organs;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the expenses of the Board of External Auditors be centralised under the Commission Budget;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to monitor the budget preparation by all AU Organs in order to ensure compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the AU Staff Rules and Regulations;

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** all AU Organs to submit monthly returns to the Commission for the purpose of monitoring budget execution and compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;

10. **DECIDES** that all AU Organs shall submit their requests for virement in conformity with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations to the PRC through its Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters for consideration;

11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to verify the recruitment process of staff members within all the AU Organs and ensure that the recruitment contracts are standardized;

12. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to discuss future draft budgets with the Bureau of the Sub-Committee on Administration, Budgetary and Financial Matters before submitting them to the Sub-Committee for consideration;

13. **REQUESTS** PAP:

    i) to stop applying fifty-eight percent (58%) Post Adjustment Allowance to its staff members as and when their contracts expire, and apply the forty percent (40%) rate as per the AU Staff Rules and Regulations;

    ii) to send to the Commission copies of contracts for the members of staff who will be affected by this Decision;

    iii) to calculate Post Adjustment Allowance on basic salary only without including the housing allowance;

    iv) to stop implementing any decisions of the Bureau of PAP which have financial implications until approved by the AU Policy Organs;

    v) to submit the Organizational Structure of PAP to the Sub-Committee on Structures for consideration prior to the July 2009 Summit;

    vi) to adhere strictly to the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the Staff Rules and Regulations in the preparation and execution of the Budget, as well as the provisions of Article 15 of PAP's Protocol dealing with budget preparation;

    vii) not to include any unauthorized budget lines in the 2009 Budget in particular the Sitting, Advocacy and Communication, Coordination and Responsibility Allowances.

    viii) to apply the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates as per the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;

    ix) to stop paying higher housing allowance rates and apply the AU approved rates.

DECISION ON THE USE OF SURPLUS

The Executive Council:

1. **APPROVES** the use of ten percent (10%) of surplus to replenish the Working Capital with an amount of US$3,260,000 from the surplus of the period 2004 to 2007;

2. **ALSO APPROVES** the review and increase of the amount allocated to the acquisition of AU Properties from fifteen percent (15%) to twenty percent (20%) of the arrears of contributions;

3. **FURTHER APPROVES** that forty percent (40%) of the surplus accumulated during the period 2004-2007 be used to finance this year's Budget;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to make proposals on the review of the relevant articles in the AU Financial Rules and Regulations on the use of Surplus and Deficits.

DECISION ON OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Executive Council:

1. **APPROVES** the payment of an honorarium of two hundred United States Dollars (US$200.00) per day to the Members of the Board of External Auditors (Board) plus twenty percent (20%) for the Chairperson of the Board;

2. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in consultation with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) to appoint as soon as possible an independent auditing firm to conduct a forensic audit of the African Union Mission in Sudan's (AMIS) accounts and submit a report to the Executive Council at its next Ordinary Session in July 2009.

DECISION ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES
Doc. EX.CL/453 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the contributions of Member States;

2. **APPRECIATES** that the following Member States are up to date with the payment of their contributions to the Regular Budget: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Namibia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Democratic Arab Saharawi Republic, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, and Zambia and ENCOURAGES other Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time;

3. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the late payment of contributions by some Member States;

4. **URGES** Member States in arrears of their contributions to urgently pay up their arrears;

5. **DECIDES** that the temporary exemptions granted to Burundi and Sierra Leone from sanctions be maintained so long as they honour their agreed payment schedule and **URGES** these Member States to continue to comply with the agreed rescheduling plan;

6. **DECIDES** to maintain the sanctions on the following Member States:

   i) Cape Verde

   ii) Democratic Republic of Congo

   iii) Eritrea

   iv) Sao Tome & Principe

   v) Seychelles

7. **CONSIDERS FAVOURABLY** the request by Seychelles to reschedule its arrears and **REQUESTS** the Commission to convey this position to the Government of Seychelles;

8. **TAKES NOTE** of the statement by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and does not accept the proposal of DRC to offer buildings to cover its arrears;

9. **DECIDES** on the non-exemption from exceptional measures for post-conflict countries until conclusion by the Commission of the study on the matter and appropriate recommendations thereon considered and adopted;

10. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to explore the possibility of opening a dialogue with the five (5) countries under sanctions in order to convince them to pay up their arrears and be up-to-date in respect of their status as members of the African Union.

DECISION ON THE AU 2009 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS
Doc. EX.CL/453 (XIV)d

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the Draft 2009 African Union (AU) Calendar of Meetings;

2. **REAFFIRMS** the provisions of its previous Decision EX.CL/Dec.419 (XIII) adopted by its Thirteenth Ordinary Session held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 27 to 28 June 2008;

3. **COMMENDS** the Commission, in particular the Conference Services Directorate for the tremendous efforts it has exerted in improving the quality and timely delivery of services to facilitate the smooth conduct of meetings;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to avoid, in the planning and organization of its future meetings, the overlapping and congestion of such meetings within specific months;

5. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to rationalize all its meetings and also reduce the number of summits and ministerial meetings held in one single year;

6. **EMPHASISES** the need to align meetings to the approved budgetary allocations without allowing it to negatively affect the effective and smooth servicing of such meetings;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure proper coordination and consultation between its various Departments when organizing meetings on the same themes involving the same stakeholders;

8. **DECIDES** that meetings not reflected in the approved Calendar of Meetings shall not be organized by the Commission;

9. **REITERATES** the need for the Commission to ensure that religious events and national holidays are taken into account when preparing its Calendar of Meetings;

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that working documents including reports of meetings, particularly those of ministerial nature are prepared timely, and delivered to Member States;

11. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to discourage Departments from preparing meetings through direct contacts with capitals of Member States and without the knowledge or involvement of their Permanent Representatives to the AU;

12. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the PRC in collaboration with the Commission to finalize the 2009 Calendar of Meetings as soon as possible after the January 2009 Summit;

13. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Commission to monitor the implementation of this Decision and submit a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Executive Council in July 2009.

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF OAU/AU TREATIES AND THE HARMONIZATION OF RATIFICATION PROCEDURES
Doc. EX.CL/458 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of Signature and Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties;

2. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference of Ministers of Justice and/or Attorneys General held in Kigali, Rwanda from 27 October to 4 November 2008;

3. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to Member States to urgently sign and ratify/accede to all OAU/AU Treaties and in any event to commence the process of ratification within the next one year for existing treaties not yet ratified or acceded to; and within one year of adoption of future treaties;

4. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Justice and/or Attorneys General relating to the Procedures for Ratification of Treaties in Member States, and Measures to Speed up the Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties including those intended to:

   (i) encourage ratification of OAU/AU treaties;
   (ii) harmonize ratification procedures and speed up ratification of OAU/AU treaties;
   (iii) address the problem of inconsistency between different linguistic texts; and
   (iv) ensure speedy implementation of treaties.

5. **REQUESTS** Member States and the Commission to implement the respective recommendations relating to the Procedures for Ratification and Measures to Speed up the Ratification of OAU/AU Treaties addressed to them;

6. **URGES** Member States to commence the process of ratification of AU treaties within one (1) year of their adoption;

7. **REITERATES ITS APPEAL** to the Pan-African Parliament to assist with advocacy and sensitization of Member States to expedite the process of ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;

8. **DECIDES** to institutionalize the AU Treaty Signing Week in December of each year;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps to expedite the implementation of the previous decisions of the Executive Council on the review of OAU/AU Treaties and to report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2009;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of this Decision and to report regularly to the Executive Council on progress made.

DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP) DOC. EX.CL/459 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Review of the Protocol relating to the Pan-Afri Parliament (PAP);

2. **AUTHORIZES** the Commission to initiate the review process of the Protocol to the Treaty establish the African Economic Community relating to the PanAfrican Parliament;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to draft and finalize the Terms of Reference for the review in consultat with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), taking into account the views of PAP;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to carry out a comprehensive study on the review of Protocol based on the Terms of Reference, taking into account the views of PAP and make appropri recommendations thereon to the African Union (AU) Policy Organs, through the PRC, for consideratio their next Ordinary Sessions in July 2009;

5. **ALSO REQUESTS PAP** to amend its Rules of Procedure to conform to the legal instruments of the AU

6. **FINALLY REQUESTS** PAP to urgently fix a term limit for its Bureau, drawing inspiration from other organs and to immediately hold new elections to renew the mandate of the current Bureau or elect a n one.

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION BORDER PROGRAMME DOC. EX.CL/459 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Implementation of the African Union Border Programme (AUBP);

2. **RECALLS** Decision EX.CL/Dec.370 (XI) adopted at its Eleventh Ordinary Session held in Accra, Ghana, from 28 to 29 June 2007, through which Council endorsed the AUBP;

3. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the implementation of the AUBP;

4. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to persevere in its efforts, in particular through the pursuit of the enhancement of its capacities, notably in terms of human resources, the sensitization campaign on the AUBP, the launching of consultancies on the key components of the AUBP, the elaboration of a legal instrument on cross-border cooperation, the initiation of a programme of exchange of experiences and best practices and the convening of the Second Conference of African Ministers in charge of Border Issues;

5. **INVITES** Member States to take all the necessary measures to fully play their role in the implementation of the AUBP, and **FURTHER INVITES** those countries that have not yet done so to respond as soon as possible to the questionnaire on the state of African borders, to accelerate the delimitation and demarcation process of African borders where such an exercise has not yet taken place, through dialogue, and to take all the necessary steps to strengthen local initiative on cross-border cooperation;

6. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for its assistance to the implementation of the AUBP, and **URGES** the other African Union (AU) partners to support the implementation of the AUBP and, where relevant, honour the commitments made;

7. **ENCOURAGES** the Commission to take initiatives to develop cross-border cooperation, both as an indispensable complement of delimitation and demarcation of African borders, where this has not yet been done;

8. **FURTHER ENCOURAGES** the Commission to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the 2012 deadline set by the Memorandum of Understanding on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa (CSSDCA) for the delineation and demarcation of all borders is achieved as much as possible;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the AUBP is implemented on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity, taking into account the respective roles incumbent on the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AU;

10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to work actively towards the establishment of partnerships with organizations that have experience in the management of border issues, in particular the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization of American States;

11. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to report regularly on the implementation of the AUBP.

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA Doc. EX.CL/460 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

2. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** over the recurrent challenging problems of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in some regions of the African continent;

3. **WELCOMES** the holding and positive outcome of the meetings of AU Member States Experts in-charge of Forced Displacement issues, the Legal Experts on the Draft AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa and the Second Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, which took place in November 2008, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, towards the preparations of the AU Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, scheduled for April 2009, in Kampala, Uganda;

4. **CONGRATULATES** Member States on their assistance programmes to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons and **REQUESTS** countries of asylum to reinforce their assistance machineries in order to make them more effective;

5. **STRESSES** the need for more assistance to the countries of asylum to enable them to properly shoulder their increased responsibilities and assume the additional burden caused by the presence of refugees on their economies;

6. **CALLS UPON** the International Community to honour its pledges and extend assistance to countries of origin for the repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of returnees to ensure their sustainable integration;

7. **REQUESTS** Member States to provide the Commission with up-to-date statistics on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in order to enable the Commission to reflect the true picture of the humanitarian situation in their countries; and

8. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Republic of Uganda to host the first ever AU Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION EX.CL/Dec. 408(XII) ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY
Doc. EX.CL/461 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Implementation of Decision EX.CL/Dec.408(XII) on the Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery;

2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the success of the Experts Group Meeting on Slavery and the follow up to the World Conference Against Racism held in Banjul, The Gambia, pursuant to Decision EX.CL/Dec. 408(XII) on the "Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery";

3. **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE** to the Government of the Republic of The Gambia for hosting the Meeting;

4. **WELCOMES** the hosting by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of the African Regional Conference preparatory to the Durban Review Conference;

5. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the organization of the first ever Annual International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade by the United Nations, the African Union and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 March 2008;

6. **FURTHER EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the organization of the seminar for the African Group in Geneva on preparations for the Durban Review Conference, on 5 April 2008 by the African Union (AU) Permanent Mission in Geneva;

7. **APPEALS** to Member States and the International Community to get fully engaged with the Durban Review Process, by expressing their political will in that connection and providing support towards the financing of the process;

8. **CALLS UPON** Member States to provide the Commission with information on national efforts to end contemporary forms of slavery;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to make use of the outcomes of the Experts Group Meeting on Slavery and the follow up to the World Conference Against Racism; inputs for the Durban Review Conference, a follow up to the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances scheduled for Geneva, Switzerland from 20 to 24 April 2009, and to submit a report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the African Diaspora to undertake further study on slavery and its contemporary forms with special emphasis on issues related to reparations covering the colonial period, taking into account the work undertaken by the Committee on Reparations established in conformity with OAU Resolution CM/Res.1339(LIV) adopted in Abuja, Federal Republic of Nigeria, in June 1991, and report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009;

11. **CALLS UPON** the Commission to react to racist and other attacks on African migrants, whenever they occur.

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PAN-AFRICAN STOCK EXCHANGE
Doc. EX.CL/464 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy an Finance held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 January 2009;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Extraordinary Conference on the Feasibility of a Pan-Africa Stock Exchange;

3. **TAKES NOTE** of the Study on the Feasibility of a Pan-African Stock Exchange, pursuant to Decisio Assembly/AU/Dec.109 (V) adopted by the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union held Sirte, Libya, in July 2005;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with Member States, the Regional Economic Communities the existing African stock exchanges and their regulatory bodies, brokers, the private sector, and othe stakeholders, to conduct an additional study to deepen the retained option of a gradual approach toward the integration of African stock exchanges;

5. **DECIDES** that the necessary budgetary resources be allocated for the realization of the additional study

DECISION ON THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL FOR THE SAHARA AND SAHEL INITIATIVE
Doc. EX.CL/465 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative;

2. **ENDORSES** the Plan of Action including the indicative budget for the implementation of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative in collaboration with the concerned Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs);

4. **CALLS UPON** the concerned Member States and their respective RECs to put in place the necessary financial and institutional arrangements, when necessary, that are required at national, sub-regional and regional levels to guide the programme implementation process;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission while implementing the Plan of Action, to avoid duplication and make use of the existing initiatives and instruments at subregional, regional and continental levels;

6. **CALLS UPON** development partners to support the concerned Member States, RECs and the Commission to ensure the effective implementation of the Plan of Action at national, regional and continental levels.

DECISION TO INCREASE SALARIES OF AFRICAN UNION ELECTED OFFICIALS AND STAFF
Doc. PRC/Rpt (XVII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on the revision of salaries and allowances of staff of the Commission;

2. **DECIDES**, based on the review, to increase the basic salaries of all elected officials and staff members of the Commission in the following manner:

   a. Staff in the General Service (GS) category: *25%*
   b. Staff in the Professional category: *20%*
   c. Elected officials: *15%*

3. **ALSO DECIDES** that the increase shall take effect from 1 January 2009.

4. **FURTHER DECIDES** on the payment of a Non-Resident Allowance for internationally recruited GS staff at the rate of US$3000 and US$2400 per year for staff with dependants and those without dependants respectively.

5. **DECIDES** that the proposed revision of staff allowances (Post Adjustment, Housing and Education) be examined after the January 2009 Summit and that the financial implications thereon be implemented with effect from January 2009, from arrears of contributions;

6. **REQUESTS** the PRC to revisit the five-yearly periodicity of the review of salaries and make appropriate recommendations to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009.

DECISION ON THE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE MAPUTO STRUCTURE PART D
Doc. PRC/Rpt (XVII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) on adjustments to the Maputo Structure - Doc.PRC/Rpt(XVII);

2. **ENDORSES** the PRC's recommendations that all requests for structural changes:

   i) be supported by relevant decisions of the policy organs;

   ii) comply with the principles of cost effectiveness and the Commission's benchmarks; and

   iii) that recruitment be made in a gradual and phased manner in order to better plan, control and manage the financial implications;

3. **DECIDES** that the recruitment for the thirty-three (33) new positions approved for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) be done over a period of five (5) years beginning January 2010;

4. **ADOPTS** the adjustments to the Maputo Structure as set out in the PRC's Report - Document PRC/Rpt(XVII) - and **APPROVES** that its financial implications be incorporated into the 2010 budget.

DECISION ON THE SECOND ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN UNION MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF YOUTH
Doc. EX.CL/470 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Conference of the African Union (AU) Ministers in charge of Youth (COMY II) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12 to 15 February 2008;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Year of the African Youth 2008;

3. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Second Conference of the AU Ministers in charge of Youth;

4. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the deposit of instruments of ratification of the African Youth Charter by Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda and **COMMENDS** the efforts by Member States and Youth Organizations in the popularization and the ratification of the African Youth Charter;

5. **URGES** the Member States that have not yet ratified the Charter to do so as expeditiously as possible;

6. **RECOGNIZES** and **COMMENDS** the contributions by youth organizations to development processes in many Member States and **CALLS FOR** a stronger involvement in actions to facilitate progress towards achieving the objectives of the African Youth Charter;

7. **ALSO RECOGNIZES** and **COMMENDS** the efforts made and support provided by the Government of Algeria for more than FORTY (40) years while hosting the Headquarters of the Pan African Youth Union (PYU);

8. **ALSO COMMENDS** the African youth for their active involvement in the revitalization of the Pan-African Youth Union, by strongly addressing the provisions of the African Youth Charter, as the legally adopted framework;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate the handing over process and activities between the outgoing Secretariat General and the new Bureau of PYU, elected during the Brazzaville Congress held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo on 1 August 2008;

10. **CALLS UPON** Member States to consider the possibilities of offering to host the Pan African Youth Union's Headquarters;

11. **FURTHER RECOGNIZES** the Pan African Youth Union as the continental coordinating body for youth organizations and as the focal agency of the African Union on youth matters;

12. **COMMENDS** Member States and the Commission for the successful celebration of the African Youth Day 2008 and the Year of the African Youth 2008, and the implementation of related initiatives such as the creation of the African Youth Anthem; as well as the organization of the First Great African March for Peace and Solidarity;

13. **TAKES NOTE** of the implementation by the Commission of the non formal Technical and Vocational Training and Education (TVET) pilot projects for post conflict areas in Burundi, Republic of Congo and Liberia as well as the establishment of the first AU/Member States Centre for Youth Capacity Building in those countries;

14. **RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly proclaims the years 2009-2019 as the "Decade for Youth Development in Africa" and **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop a ten-year plan of action for youth development to be implemented during the Decade, in collaboration with Member States and RECs through the organization at national, regional and continental levels of consultations on topical African issues so as to make recommendations for youth participation in decision-making, thus facilitating the strengthening of unity, peace, security, solidarity and sustainable development of continental integration in all African Union domains;

15. **FURTHER RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly includes in the agenda of the Summit of its July 2010 Session issues related to "African youth development and empowerment";

16. **CALLS ON** all Member States to allocate adequate resources for youth leadership and empowerment and for the implementation of the African Youth Charter and all national programmes of action for the youth;

17. **REQUESTS** the Commission, the Member States, the Pan African Youth Union and all relevant partners to cooperate closely for the dissemination and enlargement in all Member States of the innovative programmes initiated during the Year of the African Youth 2008 such as the Creation of AU/Member States Centre for Youth Capacity building and the Youth Mobility and Communication, Multimedia and Sustainable Development Training;

18. **ALSO CALLS UPON** the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities, the Pan African Youth Union and Member States to strengthen mutual cooperation as well as develop effective mechanisms for the implementation of the youth policies and national plan of action on youth;

19. **APPEALS** to International Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society, Diaspora Youth Organizations and Development Partners to pursue, in accordance with the African Youth Charter, their national, regional and continental support to youth development in Africa;

20. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Arab Republic of Egypt to host a Youth Seminar in August 2009;

21. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the implementation of this Decision to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE AFRICAN MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENT (AMCEN) Doc. EX.CL/471 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Twelfth Session of the African Ministerial Council on Environmen (AMCEN) in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 9 to 12 June 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Twelfth Session of AMCEN;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to support and facilitate the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of AMCEN;

4. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to continue to support the activities of AMCEN;

5. **CALLS UPON** Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to put in place institutional arrangements that are required at national, sub-regional and regional levels to guide the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of AMCEN;

6. **CALLS UPON** the partners to support the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Twelfth Session of AMCEN.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SPORT
Doc. EX.CL/472 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Sport (CAMS II), held in Accra, Ghana, from 10 to 14 October 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference, in particular, the following:

   i) dissolution of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa (SCSA);

   ii) implementation of the Code on the Relations between Governments, National and International Sports Organisations;

   iii) dissemination and popularization of the Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sports in Africa.

3. **CALLS ON** Member States to support the Republic of South Africa in the 2010 FIFA World Cup event, and to take full advantage of the promotional and socio-economic opportunities that the event would offer to Member States and the Continent;

4. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the Third Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Sport in 2009;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference and report thereon to the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF AFRICA'S MINERAL RESOURCES
Doc. EX.CL/474 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Development and Management of Africa's Mineral Resources;

2. **ENDORSES** the Declaration on Development and Management of Africa's Mineral Resources that was adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 17 October 2008 by the First African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers in charge of Mineral Resources Development;

3. **AGREES** that the African Mining Partnership (AMP) be merged with the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Mineral Resources Development, which shall henceforth be the only AU Ministerial Organ responsible for Mineral Resources Development and Management;

4. **WELCOMES** the African Mining Vision and **REQUESTS** the AU Ministers in charge of Mineral Resources Development to develop a concrete Action Plan for its realization;

5. **UNDERSCORES** the importance of efficiency and transparency in the exploitation and management of Africa's abundant mineral resources for the realization of the objective of a strong, united and prosperous Continent;

6. **AGREES** on the urgent need to enhance Africa's industrial base through greater local beneficiation and value addition of its mineral resources;

7. **REQUESTS** Member States to improve their mineral resources policies, establish appropriate institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks, and invest in human skills, research and development, and geological and geophysical data, that are critical for efficient and effective management of mineral resources;

8. **ALSO REQUESTS** Member States producing mineral resources, that have not yet done so, to establish associations and networks for the purpose of advancing the interest of their industry and exchanging best practices and experiences;

9. **FURTHER CALLS ON** the Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat, as well as the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to accelerate the establishment, across Africa, of major integrated corridors for the development and optimal exploitation of the Continent's natural resources;

10. **AFFIRMS** its commitment to public private partnerships in the development of Africa's mineral resources;

11. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and stakeholders, to assist Member States in building their capacity for improved management of mineral resources for the attainment of broad based socio-economic development;

12. **CALLS ON** the international community and Africa's development partners to support the efforts of Member States towards enhancing the contributions of their mineral resources sector to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable economic growth and development;

13. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of this Decision and to report regularly to the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF CULTURE (CAMC II)
Doc. EX.CL/475 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Second Session of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers of Culture (CAMC II) held in Algiers, Algeria, from 17 to 23 October 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference, including the Algiers Declaration of CAMC II on "Harmonization and Coordination of Cultural Policies, Programmes and Activities" and the Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries;

3. **CALLS UPON** the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), other relevant United Nations (UN) Agencies and Africa's development partners to support the implementation of the recommendations of CAMC II, including the Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries;

4. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to host the Third Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture in 2010;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of the outcomes of CAMC II and to coordinate the various cultural events and activities on the Continent and report regularly to the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE AFRICAN UNION CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Doc. EX.CL/477 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the First Session of the African Union (AU) Conference of Ministers charge of Social Development held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 27 to 31 October 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Conference, and in particular:

   (i) the Social Policy Framework for Africa;
   (ii) the Windhoek Declaration on Social Development; and
   (iii) the African Common Position on Social Integration;

3. **ALSO ENDORSES** the recommendation to institutionalize the Conference of Ministers in charge Social Development and that the Conference be convened every two (2) years;

4. **REAFFIRMS** previous commitments to human and social development, in particular, the African Soc Charter, the African Common Position on Human and Social Development, the Declaration a Programme of Action of the Copenhagen World Summit on Social Development, the outcome of t Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, the Banjul Decision on the Enactment Legislation for Organizing and Ensuring Respect for Social Life in Africa, and other AU decisions promoting the family in Africa and improving the standard of living, human rights, peace, security a good governance;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to expedite the presentation of these Decisions and Declarations to t next Session of the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development;

6. **MANDATES** the Chairperson of the First Session of the AU Conference of Ministers in charge of Soc Development to present the African Common Position on Social Integration to the Forty-Seventh Sessi of the United Nations Commission for Social Development to be held in February 2009;

7. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Republic of The Sudan to host the Second Session of the AU Conferen of Ministers in charge of Social Development in 2010;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of the outcomes of the Conference a to report thereon to the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE DRAFT STATUTE OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW
Doc. EX.CL/478 (XIV)a

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General held in Kigali, Rwanda from 27 October to 4 November 2008;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL);

3. **DECIDES** to recommend the Draft Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law to the Assembly for consideration and adoption.

DECISION ON THE DRAFT AFRICAN CHARTER ON STATISTICS
Doc. EX.CL/478 (XIII)b

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and recommendations of the Conference of Ministers of Justice/Atto General held in Kigali, Rwanda from 27 October to 4 November 2008;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Draft African Charter on Statistics;

3. **DECIDES** to recommend the Draft African Charter on Statistics to the Assembly for consideratio adoption.

DECISION ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION
Doc. EX.CL/482 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on Afro-Arab Cooperation;

2. **WELCOMES** the efforts of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to upgrade the annual Inter-Secretariat consultative meetings to college-to-college meetings;

3. **ALSO WELCOMES** the ongoing preparations by the Commission and the League of Arab States of the Second Afro-Arab Summit scheduled to be held in 2009 and **REQUESTS** them to continue consultations on the venue of the Summit before the next session of the Executive Council in July 2009;

4. **ONCE AGAIN WELCOMES** the offer of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the Thirteenth Session of the Standing Commission of the Afro-Arab Cooperation and **URGES** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to determine the dates of the Session in consultation with the host country before the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009;

5. **ENDORSES** the initiative to create direct working relations between African and Arab Peace and Security Councils and **URGES** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to develop a viable mechanism to ensure proper coordination between the two organs;

6. **CALLS UPON** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to expedite the establishment of a Joint Afro-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Professions, as recommended by the Workshop on the Role of Chambers of Commerce in Promoting Afro-Arab Trade held in Cairo, Egypt from 29 to 30 November 2008;

7. **ENDORSES** the organization of the following events and meetings:

   (i) First edition of the Afro-Arab Development Forum to be held in an Arab country towards the end of 2009 and **CALLS UPON** African and Arab policy makers, civil society organizations, private sectors, intellectuals and prominent individuals to actively participate at the Forum. Council also **CALLS UPON** the African Development Bank, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Islamic Development Bank and other African and Arab financial institutions to support the organization of the Forum;

   (ii) Joint Afro-Arab Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security to be held in 2009 and **CALLS UPON** all Member States of the African Union and the League of Arab States to actively participate at the meeting;

   (iii) High-level Experts Meeting on the Prospects of Investment in Africa and the Arab Regions to be held in 2009 and **CALLS UPON** the Commission and the League of Arab States to commence preparations for this important meeting;

   (iv) Afro-Arab Tournaments and Competitions and **CALLS UPON** the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States to facilitate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sport with the relevant organ of the African Union.

8. **REITERATES** its Decision EX.CL/Dec.411 (XII) on the upgrading of the current Afro-Arab Cooperation Unit within the Commission to the level of a Division, with the necessary human and financial resources and **URGES** the Commission to expedite the process;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the implementation of this Decision and to report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2009.

DECISION ON THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL (ECOSOCC)
Doc. EX.CL/483 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the Commission on the Launch of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC);

2. **COMMENDS** the efforts of the Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Commission in ensuring an early and successful launch of ECOSOCC in Dar-es-Salam, Tanzania, in September 2008;

3. **TAKES NOTE** of the subsequent meeting of the Permanent Assembly of ECOSOCC in Abuja, Nigeria, from 16 to 19 December 2008 and the ongoing efforts since its inception aimed at elaborating its rules of procedure, strategic plan and work programme for conducting the remaining elections and for providing an appropriate framework for institution building and a platform for effective contribution to the work of the African Union;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take appropriate measures to support this process and to ensure the operationalisation of ECOSOCC;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the Bureau of ECOSOCC and its General Assembly, to take the necessary measures to facilitate the completion of the process of election in Member States where such elections have not yet taken place;

6. **APPEALS** to all Member States to provide adequate support and resources for the effective operationalization of ECOSOCC.

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND PALESTINE
DOC. EX.CL/486 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine; and **RECALLS** all resolutions and decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the Situation in Palestine and the Middle East;

2. **REITERATES** its full support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole and legitimate representative, to obtain their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their homeland and to their property, and to live in peace and stability in an Independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, in accordance with the principle of international law, all pertinent United Nations (UN) Resolutions, particularly resolution 194, which calls for the return of refugees to their homeland and properties, and the resolutions and decisions of the OAU/AU;

3. **REAFFIRMS** its support to end the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully and on the basis of the principles of international law and all relevant resolutions; and **CALLS UPON** Israel to end their occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories;

4. **REQUESTS** the United Nations (UN) Security Council to shoulder its major responsibilities under its charter in maintaining international peace and security in order to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace; and **CALLS UPON** the international community to exert pressure on Israel;

5. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the barbaric attacks launched by the Israeli forces on the Gaza Strip resulting in the death and injuries of thousand of innocent civilians as well as massive destruction of property; and **CALLS ON** the UN Security Council to carry out investigations into the violations of human rights and war crimes perpetrated during these aggressions, including the use of prohibited weapons with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice;

6. **URGES** Israel to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the occupied areas;

7. **CALLS UPON** Israel to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1860, which calls for "an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire" and lifting of the siege imposed on Gaza by ensuring "the sustained reopening of the crossing points on the basis of the 2005 agreement"; as well as "the unimpeded provision and distribution throughout Gaza of humanitarian assistance, including food, fuel and medical treatment";

8. **WELCOMES** the Egyptian initiative as a mechanism for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1860, and which also calls for an immediate ceasefire, the lifting of the siege and to guarantee international protection for civilians;

9. **EXPRESSES** its support for the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides in order to reach a peaceful, comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, and **CALLS UPON** Israel to accept the International efforts aimed at establishing the independent Palestinian State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital, and to respond to the demands of the International Community;

10. **WELCOMES** the Arab Summit's Resolution adopted in Damascus and all the efforts made by sisterly and friendly countries particularly the sustained and sincere efforts deployed by the Arab Republic of Egypt;

11. **EXPRESSES** its profound appreciation for the efforts made by the Palestinian leadership for the achievement of peace;

12. **DEMANDS** that the Israeli Government stops all unilateral measures and decisions aimed and designed to create a new reality in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly the continuous building of illegal settlements as a new geopolitical reality; and **FURTHER DEMANDS** that the Israeli Government immediately ceases all settlement activities in the Palestinian Occupied Territories and to remove the Apartheid Separation Wall that was built on an Occupied Palestinian Territory, as well as to comply with the decision of the International Court of Justice and the UN General Assembly Resolution in this regard; and **URGES** the International Community to exert pressure on Israel to stop all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;

13. **CONDEMNS** Israel for its continued excavations around and under the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the deliberate destruction of places of archaeological significance and heritage in the city of Al-Quds (Jerusalem); and **DEMANDS** that all countries, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Committee of Global Archaeology take severe sanctions against Israel for its provocative measures that constitute a dangerous threat for the global archaeological treasure;

14. **EXPRESSES DEEP CONCERN** regarding the worsening humanitarian situation and increasing sanitary and economic deterioration in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, due to the constant siege, ongoing daily Israeli invasions, restrictions on the movement of persons and constant closures and blockades of the Palestinian commercial crossing points with neighboring countries; and **DEMANDS** that the Israeli authorities remove them immediately and without delay and to re-open all crossing points;

15. **DENOUNCES** the repressive practices and policies, particularly the continuous invasions, daily assassinations, brutal assaults, the demolitions and arrests committed against civilians, innocent and defenceless people in the Palestinian Occupied Territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) its capital, that claimed hundreds of lives during the past months;

16. **EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN** over the deterioration of the living and health conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails; **DENOUNCES** and **CONDEMNS** all Israeli inhuman practices against prisoners and detainees;

17. **FINALLY CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to put an end to its occupation of all Arab lands occupied since 1967, including the Syrian and Lebanese territories, and to abide by the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid Declaration, the Land for Peace Principle, and the Road Map, in order to reach a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

DECISION ON THE STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ACCELERATED INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA
Doc. EX.CL/476 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the First Ordinary Session of the Conference of African Union (AU) Ministers of Industry/Eighteenth Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI-18);

2. **ENDORSES** the Strategy for the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa;

3. **ALSO ENDORSES** the Declaration adopted by the Conference of AU/African Ministers of Industry held in Durban, South Africa on 28 October 2008;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), to organize regional meetings in Africa for the dissemination of the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa and the Strategy for the Implementation;

5. **REQUESTS** Member States, the RECs, private sector institutions and operators, development partners and other stakeholders, to take necessary measures for the effective implementation of the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa;

6. **UNDERSCORES** the importance of availing the necessary financial resources for the operationalisation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, and **CALLS** on Member States to dedicate adequate national resources for industrial development;

7. **ALSO CALLS** on the Commission, the RECs and other African and international institutions to assist in the mobilization of resources for Africa's industrial development through, inter alia, the development of appropriate financial instruments and mechanisms;

8. **WELCOMES** the offer made by the Arab Republic of Egypt for five hundred (500) scholarships to other African Countries in the different sectors of industry as well as the launching of the South-South Industrial Cooperation Centre;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with UNIDO, to submit to the Executive Council, every two years, progress reports on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa.

DECISION ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION
Doc. EX.CL/462 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the activities relating to multilateral cooperation and various partnerships;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in the preparation for the various summits scheduled to take place during the year 2009;

3. **RECALLS** that these partnerships are vital to the process of Africa's development and **URGES** for maximum preparation in order for Africa to fully appropriate the benefits and opportunities of these partnerships;

4. **FURTHER RECALLS** the successful conduct of the Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit that was held in Istanbul, Turkey in August 2008;

5. **CALLS ON** Member States to fully participate in the implementation of the outcomes of the Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit, the Africa-India Forum Summit, and TICAD IV;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to work closely with the relevant AU organs with a view to concluding the joint plan of action of the Africa-India Forum Summit, and to develop that relating to the Africa-Turkey Partnership Summit in order to derive maximum and concrete benefits;

7. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the concrete proposals made by India with ear-marked funding within the framework of the Africa-India Forum Summit;

8. **ALSO NOTES** the proposal by the Venezuelan Government to host the Second Africa-South America Summit in August 2009, in Venezuela and **REQUESTS** the Commission to liaise with the host with the view to proposing specific dates;

9. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Conference to review the draft Agreement between them, approved by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 2000, and **REQUESTS** that the outcome be brought to the attention of this Council in due course;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to conclude the global review, study of all the existing partnerships and report to the next Session of the Executive Council in July 2009, and **DIRECTS** that no new partnership be considered until the review has been concluded;

11. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly that the partnership summits scheduled to take place this year be held as follows:

    i. Africa-South America Summit, during the month of August 2009, with the specific date being agreed through consultation;
    ii. Africa-Diaspora Summit later in the year 2009, in South Africa, at a date to be mutually agreed upon with the host country;
    iii. The Second Afro-Arab Summit on a date to be agreed upon.

12. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all necessary measures to participate in the preparation and holding of future meetings of the partnerships with China and Japan, as per previous decisions on this issue;

13. **STRESSES** the need to ensure harmony of strategies within various partnerships and **REQUESTS** the Commission to appoint a coordinator to that effect.

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2012 EX.CL/454 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the presentation by the Commission of the Draft Strategic Plan 2009-2012 and the comments and observations of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) contained in document PRC/Rpt(XVII);

2. **COMMENDS** the Commission for the work carried out and the quality of the Strategic Plan document and **STRESSES** the need for the Commission to work closely with the PRC in order to finalize this document;

3. **ACCEPTS**, in principle, the missions and objectives of the African Union Commission on which the African Union Strategic Plan for the period 2004-2007 is built;

4. **REAFFIRMS** that, in order to achieve continental integration, the Commission, Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the other AU organs, key partners and stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector must work in synergy, on the basis of shared values of the Union;

5. **AUTHORIZES** the Chairperson of the Commission to take appropriate measures to ensure that support structures, programs, projects and budgets drawn up from the former Strategic Plan 2004-2007 are carried out appropriately, pending the adoption of the 2009-2012 Strategic Plan;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission in collaboration with the PRC to submit the Plan to the next Ordinary Sessions of the Executive Council and Assembly in July 2009 for final adoption.

DECISION ON THE TWENTY FIFTH ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
Doc. EX.CL/490 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Twenty-Fifth Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);

2. **ADOPTS** and **AUTHORIZES**, in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter), the publication of the Twenty-Fifth Activity Report of the ACHPR and its annexes;

3. **COMMENDS** the ACHPR for its accomplishments in the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in 2008 and **URGES** that it continues to pursue and intensify its efforts in this regard;

4. **REQUESTS** the ACHPR to identify possible ways to overcome shortcomings in the functioning of the communications mechanism that might result from, inter alia, human and financial resources constraints, as previously referred to in paragraph eleven (11) of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.200(XI);

5. **REITERATES** its request to the ACHPR to present a report on this issue in accordance with paragraph 12 of Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.200(XI) and **FURTHER UNDERSCORES** the importance of addressing effectively and promptly these issues in order to support the ACHPR in discharging its mandate in the most efficient, professional and objective manner;

6. **ADOPTS** the new structure of the Secretariat of the ACHPR proposed by the PRC and **CALLS UPON** the relevant Departments of the African Union Commission (AUC) to ensure the implementation of this structure in accordance with the relevant AU Rules and Regulations;

7. **COMMENDS** the ACHPR for finalising its Interim Rules of Procedure and transmitting the Rules to stakeholders, including States Parties to the African Charter;

8. **CALLS ON** the ACHPR and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to expedite the harmonization of their respective Rules with a view to enhancing the protection of human rights in Africa;

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the ACHPR to report on the implementation of this decision to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS Doc. EX.CL/489 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for the year 2008;

2. **CONGRATULATES** the Court on the progress achieved in the discharge of its mission;

3. **RECALLS** its Decision EX.CL/Dec.449 (XIII) which, among others, "authorizes the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to submit in 2009 a new structure of the Registry and new proposals concerning the status of the Judges";

4. **REQUESTS** the Permanent Representatives' Committee to examine the Court's proposals on the new structure of the Court Registry and on the status of the Judges, and put forward recommendations thereon for the consideration of the Executive Council at its next Session;

5. **URGES** Members States that have not already done so, to ratify the Protocol establishing the Court and to issue the statement accepting the competence of the Court to hear cases from individuals and non-governmental organisations in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol.

DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES FOR POSTS WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM
Doc. EX.CL/Dec.485 (XIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained therein;

3. **ENDORSES** the following candidatures:

   (i) The Republic of Cameroon for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2009-2012;

   (ii) The Republic of Kenya for election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for the 2009-2012 period;

   (iii) The Republic of Mauritius for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for the 2009-2012 period;

   (iv) The Federal Republic of Nigeria for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2009-2012 period;

   (v) The Republic of Senegal for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, for the 2009-2012 period;

   (vi) The Republic of Djibouti for re-election as member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2009-2012 period;

   (vii) The candidature of the Republic of Kenya as member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

   (viii) The Republic of Cameroon as member of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Industrial Development Council and the Programme and Budget Committee.

4. **DECIDES** that the candidatures of Nigeria, Togo and Sierra Leone for non-permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council, as well as the candidature of Cameroon as member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) be considered at subsequent sessions of the Ministerial Committee prior to the elections;

5. **ENDORSES** the following candidatures:

   (i) Dr Kandeh Yumkella of Sierra Leone for re-election to the post of Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);

   (ii) Ambassador Papa Louis Fall of Senegal for re-election as member of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU);

   (iii) Dr. Kanayo F. Nwanze of Nigeria for the post of President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);

(iv) Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty of South Africa for the post of Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

6. **TAKES NOTE** of the Algiers Declaration adopted by the Second Conference of Ministers of Culture held in Algiers, Algeria, from 19 to 23 October 2008, which endorsed the candidature of Dr. Hosni Faruk, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the post of Director General of the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

DECISION ON ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION
Doc. EX.CL/492 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Election for Membership of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption;

2. **ELECTS** the following members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption:

	Names	Country
1.	Mr. Nabil HATTALI	(Algeria)
2.	Ms. Dorothy Nyagoha ANGOTE	(Kenya)
3.	Ms. Frene GINWALA	(South Africa)
4.	Ms. Henriette Tall DIOP	(Senegal)
5.	Mr. Léonidas HAVYARIMANA	(Burundi)
6.	Mr. Costantinos Berhé TESFU	(Ethiopia)
7.	Ms. Jane Mayemu ANSAH	(Malawi)
8.	Mr. Simon-Pierre NZOBABELA	(Congo)
9.	Mr. Mazou Seidou ADAMOU	(Niger)
10.	Mr. James KAHOOZA	(Uganda)
11.	Mr. Paulus Kalonho NOA	(Namibia)

3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected Members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption to the Assembly for appointment.

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRUST FUND FOR AFRICAN WOMEN
Doc.EX.CL/DEC 445 (XIV)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the delay in implementing the Executive Council Decision (Ex.CL/Dec 445 (XIII) Establishment of the Trust Fund for African Women; and

2. **CALLS ON** the African Development Bank, in collaboration with other institutions to take urgent act implement this decision.

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN UNION GENDER POLICY

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Meeting of Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs held in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho from 15 to 19 December 2008;

2. **ENDORSES** the Maseru Declaration on the African Union (AU) Gender Policy;

3. **ADOPTS** the Gender Policy[1] as an instrument that will accelerate the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality, and thereby facilitate the implementation of Art. 4(l) of the Constitute Act on Gender Equality; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the AU Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), and other global commitments adopted by Member States;

4. **RECOMMENDS** that the Assembly institutionalizes the Conference of AU Ministers in charge of Gender and Women's Affairs,

5. **FURTHER RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to declare 2010 to 2020 as the Decade for African Women, and **REQUESTS** Member States, the AU Organs, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to develop and support activities, and avail the necessary resources for the Decade;

6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit the AU Gender Policy and the related documents to the AU Policy Organs for adoption at the January 2009 Summit and report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly on the implementation thereof.

[1] Reservations entered by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

DECISION ON THE COMORIAN ISLAND OF MAYOTTE

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Government of the Union of the Comoros on the situation in the Comorian Island of Mayotte;

2. **RECALLS** all the previous resolutions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the Comorian Island of Mayotte and **RECALLS ALSO** that the Comorian people, at the referendum of 22 December 1974, expressed their will for independence in the political unity and the territorial integrity of the archipelago of the Comoros;

3. **CONSIDERS** that the referendums organized on 8 February 1976 and 11 April 1976 by the former colonial power in the Comorian Island of Mayotte constitute a serious violation of the territorial integrity of the Comoros and **ALSO CONSIDERS** that the inclusion of the Comorian Island of Mayotte in the Constitution of the French Republic is contrary to international law;

4. **CONDEMNS** the organization on 29 March 2009 of a referendum on the departmentalise of the Comorian Island of Mayotte and **DEMANDS** an immediate end to that process;

5. **REAFFIRMS** that the Comorian Island of Mayotte belongs to the Union of the Comoros;

6. **REQUESTS** for the immediate establishment of a dialogue between the Union of the Comoros and France in order to determine together the modalities for the return of Mayotte to the Union of the Comoros;

7. **DECIDES** to reactivate the Ad-Hoc Committee of Seven on the Comorian Island of Mayotte.

DECLARATION

DECLARATION ON PALESTINE

The Executive Council meeting in its 14th Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

Deeply dismayed and shocked by the recent air, ground and sea aggression launched by the Israeli forces on the Palestinian territory of Gaza, which cost the lives of more than a thousand people and accounted for thousands of wounded among the innocent civilian populations including women, children and elderly people as well as the massive destruction of property, thus depriving Gaza of the most basic services;

Considering the brutality and the massive, indiscriminate and disproportionate nature of this aggression and gravely shocked by the bombing of a school run by the United Nations Agency in charge of Palestinian refugees in Jabaliya in the North of Gaza, in flagrant violation of the norms of international humanitarian law;

Also gravely concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian situation created by the Israeli aggression in Gaza;

Considering that such an aggression has created new tension in the region which has undermined the efforts deployed by the international community in a bid to find a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

1. **CONDEMNS** in no uncertain terms the Israeli aggression and **CALLS ON** the United Nations Security Council to carry out an investigation into the serious violation of human rights and war crimes observed during the said aggression, and the use of banned weapons in order that the perpetrators are prosecuted and punished;

2. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 1860 which "calls for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire, leading to full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza";

3. **WELCOMES** the ceasefire following the adoption of the said resolution and **INVITES** them to observe it in order to create conditions that are most conducive to a lasting solution to the conflict;

4. **RENEWS** its support for and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle to regain their fundamental rights, including the right to existence as an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital;

5. **URGES** Israel to put an end to its aggression against the Palestinian people, lift the embargo it has imposed on them and open without delay all the border crossings to allow for the free movement of goods and persons and most importantly humanitarian aid;

6. **INVITES** the international community to provide urgent and appropriate assistance for the reconstruction of Gaza.

Annex II to the letter dated 26 February 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Decisions, declarations, message of congratulations and motion adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its twelfth ordinary session

1-3 February 2009
Addis Ababa

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DECISION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE AFRICAN UNION FOR THE 2009 FINANCIAL YEAR Doc. EX.CL/455 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **ADOPTS** the Budget of the African Union (AU) for the Financial Year 2009 amounting to US$164,256,817 to be distributed as follows:

   i) A total amount of US$ 93,804,243 assessed to Member States on the basis of the approved Scale of Assessment;

   ii) A total amount of US$57,412,574 earmarked for the programmes secured from International Partners;

   iii) An amount of 13,040,000 to be financed from forty percent (40%) of the Surpluses from the Year 2004 to 2007 Budgets;

2. **ADOPTS** the Budget breakdown between the AU Organs as follows:

	Operational Budget in (US$)	Programs Budget in (US$)	Total in (US$)
Pan African Parliament (PAP)	9,535,477	3,943,447	13,478,924
African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)	2,376,639	1,295,127	3,671,766
African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR)	6,892,269	750,000	7,642,269
Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC)	1,606,500		1,606,500
African Union Commission (AUC)	75,164,886	62,692,472	137,857,358
Total	**95,575,771**	**68,681,046**	**164,256,817**

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to develop templates for budget formulation and presentation, and submit it to the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) through its Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters for consideration;

4. **DECIDES** that all AU Organs, namely PAP, ACHPR, AfCHPR and ECOSOCC shall work closely with the Commission in the preparation of their respective budgets to ensure that they comply with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the AU Staff Rules and Regulations, as well as the standardized templates of budget formulation and presentations;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that ledger codes of budgets of all AU Organs are standardised;

6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Office of the Internal Audit of the Commission to periodically audit the accounts of all other AU Organs;

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the expenses related to the Board of External Auditors be centralizes under the Commission Budget;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to monitor the budget preparation by all AU Organs in order to ensure compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the AU Staff Rules and Regulations;

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** all AU Organs to submit monthly returns to the Commission for the purpose of monitoring budget execution and compliance with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;

10. **DECIDES** that all AU Organs shall submit their requests for virement in conformity with the AU Financial Rules and Regulations to the PRC through its Sub-Committee on Administrative, Budgetary and Financial Matters for consideration;

11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to verify the recruitment process of staff members within all the AU Organs and ensure that the recruitment contracts are standardized;

12. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to discuss future draft budgets with the Bureau of the Sub-Committee on Administration, Budgetary and Financial Matters before submitting to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

13. **REQUESTS PAP**:

    i) to stop applying fifty-eight percent (58%) Post Adjustment Allowance to its staff members as and when their contracts expire, and apply the forty percent (40%) rate as per the AU Staff Rules and Regulations;

    ii) to send to the Commission copies of contracts for the members of staff who will be affected by this Decision;

    iii) to calculate Post Adjustment Allowance on basic salary only without including the housing allowance;

    iv) to stop implementing any decisions of the Bureau of PAP which have financial implications until approved by the AU Policy Organs;

    v) to submit the Organizational Structure of PAP to the Sub-Committee on Structures for consideration prior to the July 2009 Summit;

    vi) to adhere strictly to the AU Financial Rules and Regulations and the Staff Rules and Regulations in the preparation and execution of the Budget, as well as the provisions of Article 15 of the PAP's Protocol dealing with budget preparation;

    vii) not to include any unauthorized budget lines in the 2009 Budget in particular the Sitting, Advocacy and Communication, Coordination and Responsibility Allowances.

    viii) to apply the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates as per the AU Financial Rules and Regulations;

    ix) to stop paying higher housing allowance rates and apply the AU approved rates.

DECISION ON THE DRAFT STATUTE OF THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW
Doc. Assembly/AU/12(XII) - a

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adopti the Draft Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL);

2. **ADOPTS** the Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all the necessary measures so as to ensure that the first mem of the Commission on International Law are elected in July 2009, to facilitate early operationalisati AUCIL.

DECISION ON THE DRAFT AFRICAN CHARTER ON STATISTICS
Doc. Assembly/AU/12(XII) - b

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the Draft African Charter on Statistics;

2. **ADOPTS** the African Charter on Statistics;

3. **CALLS ON** Member States to sign and ratify the African Charter on Statistics as expeditiously as possible so as to enable the Charter to enter into force, and thus provide a regulatory framework for statistics development in the Continent.

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT
Doc.EX.CL/483 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Activity Report of the Commission on the progress made so far in the preparatio for the African Diaspora Summit scheduled to be held in South Africa in 2009;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the outcome of the Technical Workshop held in Sun City, South Africa, from 27 29 August 2008 which provides for a suitable platform for consensus-building as part of the processes the preparation for the Summit;

3. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the postponement of the African Diaspora Summit and **URGES** th Commission and the Government of South Africa to continue their close collaboration in order to set new date for the Summit and ensure its successful conduct;

4. **REQUESTS** Member States, leaders of the Caribbean Community and South America as well as a other States with a significant African Diaspora population to continue to support and participate in th process leading up to the African Diaspora Summit;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the process of organizing Regional Consultati Conferences (RCCs) continues as part of the Implementation Plan, to include the African Diaspora in th Gulf, the Middle East, Oceania, and other parts of the world where they have not been held.

DECISION ON THE PROTOCOL ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN INVESTMENT BANK

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council for the consideration and adoption of the draft Protocol for the Establishment of the African Investment Bank;

2. **ADOPTS** the Protocol for the Establishment of the African Investment Bank;

3. **CALLS ON** Member States to sign and ratify as expeditiously as possible the Protocol for the Establishment of the African Investment Bank so as to enable the Protocol to enter into force.

DECISION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSEMBLY DECISION ON THE ABUSE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION DOC. Assembly/AU/3 (XII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report of the Commission on the Implementation of the Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/ Dec.199(XI) adopted by the Assembly in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008 on the Abuse of the Principle of Universal Jurisdiction;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the work of the African Union-European Union (AU-EU) Technical Ad-hoc Expert Group set up by the Eleventh AU-EU Ministerial Troika with the mandate to clarify the respective understanding on the African and EU side on the principle of universal jurisdiction;

3. **REITERATES** its commitment to fighting impunity in conformity with the provisions of Article 4(h) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

4. **EXPRESSES** its regret that in spite of its previous Summit decision calling for a moratorium and whilst the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) were already in discussion to find a durable solution to this issue, a warrant of arrest was executed against Mrs. Rose Kabuye, Chief of Protocol to the President of the Republic of Rwanda, thereby creating tension between the AU and the EU;

5. **UNDERSCORES** that the African Union speaking with one voice, is the appropriate collective response to counter the exercise of power by strong states over weak states;

6. **REITERATES** its appeal to all United Nations (UN) Member States, in particular the EU States, to suspend the execution of warrants issued by individual European States until all the legal and political issues have been exhaustively discussed between the AU, the EU and the UN;

7. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union to follow up on this matter with a view to ensuring that it is exhaustively discussed at the level of the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly;

8. **URGES** the AU and EU Commissions to extend the necessary support to the Joint Technical Ad-hoc Expert Group;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in consultation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, to examine the implications of the Court being empowered to try international crimes such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, and report thereon to the Assembly in 2010;

10. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on this matter with a view to ensuring that a definitive solution to this problem is reached and to report to the next ordinary session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2009.

DECISION ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF FINANCING FOR THE AFRICAN UNION
Doc. EX.CL/481 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Study on Alternative Sources of Financing for the African Union and the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 January 2009;

2. **URGES** Member States to examine the Study on Alternative Sources of Financing as well as the proposed options and to make appropriate recommendations thereon;

3. **ALSO URGES** Member States to forward their comments and proposals to the Commission by 15 September 2009;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take into account the recommendations put forward by Member States for a new study and present the new document to the Extraordinary Session of African Ministers of Economy and Finance to be held in November 2009;

5. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to present the outcomes of the Extraordinary Session of CAMEF to the Assembly of the Union to be held in January 2010.

DECISION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A ROADMAP AND PLAN OF ACTION FOR MICRO-FINANCE IN AFRICA Doc. EX.CL/481 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 14 January 2009;

2. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the Study on Development of a Roadmap and Plan of Action for Micro-Finance in Africa;

3. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Extraordinary Conference of CAMEF on Development of Micro-Finance in Africa;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to deepen the study on Development of a Roadmap and Plan of Action for Micro-Finance in Africa, and draw on Member States' experiences in this area;

5. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to undertake a feasibility study on the creation of a Guarantee Fund for development of micro-finance in Africa.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF DECISION Assembly/AU/Dec.204 (XI) ON PROMOTION OF MATERNAL, INFANT AND CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA Doc. Assembly/AU/6(XII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the implementation status of its previous decisions on Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the initiatives of the Commission to advocate, harmonize and coordinate efforts geared towards the promotion of safe motherhood and survival and development of infants and children;

3. **REITERATES** its commitment to keeping maternal, infant and child health top on Africa's agenda for sustainable development through the implementation of all relevant national, regional, continental and global initiatives such as International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programmes of Action, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the African Health Strategy as well as the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights;

4. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Republic of Mozambique for the theme of the July 2010 Summit to be on Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa;

5. **COMMENDS AND ENCOURAGES** Dr. Manto Tshabala-Msimang, Goodwill Ambassador for Maternal, Infant and Child Health, to utilize all avenues and platforms to promote maternal, infant and child health in Africa;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue to follow up on the implementation of the Assembly Decisions of January and July 2008 Sessions held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, respectively on the issue of maternal, infant and child health and development;

7. **CALLS UPON** the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), other relevant United Nations Agencies and Africa's development partners, including the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), to support the Commission's efforts in the promotion of maternal, infant and child health;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the implementation of this decision and to report periodically to the Assembly.

DECISION ON THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Communiqué of the Extraordinary Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance (CAMEF) on the financial crisis and its impact on African economies, held in Tunis, Tunisia, on 12 November 2008;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE**, with satisfaction, of the decision of the Conference to constitute a Committee of ten (10) Ministers and Central Bank Governors (Committee of Ten), representing the five (5) regions of the African Union (AU), to monitor the unfolding trends of the financial and economic crisis, provide regular updated data, comprehensive information and analysis, proffer advice to the AU, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States, and make proposals on how best to contribute to the deliberations on the economic and social impact of the international financial crisis and measures to mitigate the crisis, and report accordingly to the Assembly;

3. **URGES** the Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to continue to jointly render their technical assistance and logistical support towards the functioning of the Committee of Ten;

4. **INVITES** Member States to, in the drive to reduce the impact of the economic and financial crisis, intensify their cooperation to harmonise their fiscal and macroeconomic policies, accelerate the implementation of economic integration programmes and strengthen the financial markets' regulatory mechanisms;

5. **ALSO INVITES** Member States, particularly the countries hosting the three Pan African Financial Institutions created by Article 19 of the Constitutive Act, namely the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund and the African Central Bank (AIB, AMF, ACB), to speed up the establishment of these institutions, by providing the means and resources to facilitate the activities of their respective Steering Committees, in accordance with the Memoranda of Understanding signed with the Commission;

6. **URGES** the G8 member countries tasked with the responsibility to reform the international financial system, to associate the African Union, represented by its Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Commission, in the negotiations of the enlarged G20;

7. **SUPPORTS** the G20 initiative to set up working groups on the themes of negotiations for the urgent reform of the international financial system and REQUESTS that the Commission be associated with all the processes established to work out this reform and ensure the implementation of a new international, economic and financial order.

DECISION ON THE AFRICA-EUROPEAN UNION DIALOGUE
Doc. EX.CL/463 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Joint Progress Report on the Implementation of the Africa-European Union (EU) Joint Strategy/First Action Plan adopted by the eleventh Africa-EU Ministerial Troika, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 21 November 2008;

2. **WELCOMES** efforts to strengthen the dialogue between the two sides including the College-to-College meeting of the African Union (AU) Commission and the European Commission, held in Brussels, Belgium, on 1 October 2008;

3. **RECALLS** the responsibilities entrusted to the African Troika extended to include the lead agencies in the conduct of the partnership with the EU;

4. **COMMENDS** the Joint Experts Groups for the considerable work done so far in the implementation;

5. **CALLS UPON** all parties to expedite efforts with a view to attaining tangible results within the timeframe of the First Action Plan (2008-2010);

6. **REQUESTS** both Africa and the European Union to ensure that the necessary funds are allocated in order to foster effective implementation of the Joint Strategy/First Action Plan;

7. **URGES** Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other stakeholders to take active part in the implementation of the First Action Plan under the coordination of the AU Commission;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure the effective involvement of the RECs and other stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring processes;

9. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to engage with the EU to organise a workshop on the modalities for accessing its funds;

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a special report to each Session of the Executive Council on the progress made in the implementation of the partnership with the European Union.

DECISION ON ZIMBABWE

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** Resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1 (XI) on the situation in Zimbabwe adopted at its Eleventh Ordinary Session, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 30 June to 1 July 2008, as well as the efforts undertaken subsequently and which led to the signing by the Zimbabwean parties on 15 September 2008, of the Global Political Agreement (GPA);

2. **WELCOMES** the decisions of the Extraordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government, held in Pretoria, South Africa, from 26 to 27 January 2009, regarding the implementation of the GPA, and **WELCOMES** the timelines agreed for the formation of an inclusive Government, in particular the adoption of amendment nineteen (19) on 5 February 2009, as well as the swearing-in of the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Ministers by 11 February 2009 and that of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers by 13 February 2009;

3. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the commitments expressed by all the Zimbabwean parties to the GPA in the implementation of the Decision of SADC Extraordinary Summit held from 26 to 27 January 2009;

4. **COMMENDS** and **SUPPORTS** the efforts of SADC and its Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, as well as the Facilitator of the Political Dialogue on Zimbabwe, former President of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, and **ENCOURAGES** him to continue with those efforts in line with the provisions of the GPA, of which the AU is a Guarantor;

5. **CALLS UPON** AU Member States and partners to lend their full support to the implementation of the GPA, including through adequate support to address the serious socio-economic problems facing Zimbabwe;

6. **FURTHER CALLS** FOR the immediate lifting of the sanctions on Zimbabwe to ease the economic and humanitarian situation in the country;

7. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Commission for the efforts he has made in pursuance of the Sharm El Sheikh Decision.

DECISION ON THE RESURGENCE OF THE SCOURGE OF COUPS D'ÉTAT IN AFRICA

The Assembly:

1. **EXPRESSES** its deep concern over the resurgence of the scourge of coups d'état on the Continent, which constitutes not only a dangerous political downturn and a serious setback to the democratic processes, but also a threat to peace, security and stability of the Continent, and **CALLS ON** Member States to react firmly and unequivocally to put an end to this Scourge;

2. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the coups d'état that took place in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on 6 August 2008, and in the Republic of Guinea on 23 December 2008, as well as the attempted coup d'état in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on 5 August 2008;

3. **SUPPORTS** the decisions taken by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on these three countries, particularly those related to the immediate return to constitutional order, and **REQUESTS** the Commission to see to the strict implementation thereof;

4. **REITERATES** the firm commitment of the African Union (AU) to the provisions of Articles 4(p) and 30 of the Constitutive Act, the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council, the July 1999 Algiers Declaration and the Lomé Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government of July 2000;

5. **URGES** Member States that have not yet signed and ratified/acceded to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance to do so in order to ensure that this important instrument enters into force;

6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit concrete recommendations relating to the implementation of appropriate preventive measures against unconstitutional changes of government, as well as to the enhancement of efficiency and capacity-building in early warning, good offices and mediation, including the Panel of the Wise;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the AU's partners to lend support to the decisions taken by the PSC and other relevant AU Organs on unconstitutional changes of government.

DECISION ON THE APPLICATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) PROSECUTOR FOR THE INDICTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

The Assembly:

1. **EXPRESSES ITS DEEP CONCERN** at the indictment made by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the President of the Republic of The Sudan, H.E. Mr. Omar Hassan Ahmed El Bashir;

2. **CAUTIONS** that, in view of the delicate nature of the peace processes under way in The Sudan, approval of this application would seriously undermine the ongoing efforts aimed at facilitating the early resolution of the conflict in Darfur;

3. **ENDORSES** the Communiqué issued by the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) at its 142nd meeting, held on 21 July 2008, and **URGES** the United Nations Security Council, in accordance with the provisions of Article 16 of the Rome Statute of the ICC, and as requested by the PSC at its above-mentioned meeting, to defer the process initiated by the ICC;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to implement this Decision by sending a high-level delegation from the African Union for necessary contacts with the UN Security Council;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to convene as early as possible, a meeting of the African countries that are parties to the Rome Statute on the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to exchange views on the work of the ICC in relation to Africa, in particular in the light of the processes initiated against African personalities, and to submit recommendations thereon taking into account all relevant elements;

6. **REITERATES** AU's unflinching commitment to combating impunity and promoting democracy, the rule of law and good governance throughout the entire Continent, in conformity with its Constitutive Act;

7. **CONDEMNS** the gross violations of human rights in Darfur, and **URGES** that the perpetrators be apprehended and brought to justice, and **SUPPORTS** the decision by the PSC to establish a High-Level Panel of Eminent Personalities under the chairmanship of former President of the Republic of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, to examine the situation in depth, and to submit recommendations on how best the issues of accountability and combating impunity, on the one hand, and reconciliation and healing, on the other, could be effectively and comprehensively addressed;

8. **NOTES** the steps taken by the Republic of The Sudan to address human rights violations in Darfur, and **REITERATES** the call by various AU Organs for the Government of The Sudan to take immediate and concrete steps to investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice, and to take advantage of the availability of qualified lawyers to be seconded by the AU and the League of Arab States, and in this regard **CALLS UPON** all parties to scrupulously respect the values and principles of human rights.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ON ITS ACTIVITIES AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/4 (XII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on its activities and the state of peace and security in Africa;

2. **WELCOMES** the efforts deployed to promote peace, security and stability in Africa, as well as the progress made towards the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture, particularly with respect to the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Standby Force (ASF). The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** all parties concerned to redouble their efforts to resolve the ongoing conflicts and consolidate peace where it has been achieved. The Assembly also **REQUESTS** the Commission to continue supporting the ongoing processes and mobilizing the assistance of the international community to that effect;

3. **STRESSES** the need for more proactive efforts to prevent conflicts and, in this respect, **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit to it a comprehensive report on the efforts undertaken so far to prevent conflicts and how best they could be enhanced;

4. **EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN** at the resurgence of the scourge of coups d'état in the Continent which constitutes a serious political regression and a reversal of the ongoing democratization process in the Continent, requiring firm and unequivocal response on the part of Member States. The Assembly **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the coups d'état that occurred in Mauritania and Guinea on 6 August and 23 December 2008 respectively, as well as the attempted coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau on 23 November 2008. The Assembly **FULLY SUPPORTS** the decisions of the Peace and Security Council in the three cases as well as the efforts deployed by the Commission towards restoration of constitutional legality in Mauritania and Guinea;

5. **WELCOMES** the progress achieved in the process of national reconciliation in the Comoros and **ENCOURAGES** the Comorian parties to continue to work together in the spirit of consensus to consolidate these gains, including through the necessary rationalization of the existing institutional architecture of the Archipelago and harmonization of the numerous electoral timeframes in the country;

6. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the political process in Somalia, particularly the signing, on 19 August and 26 October 2008 respectively, of the Djibouti Agreement and the Agreement on the Modalities for the Cessation of Armed Confrontation, as well as the decision to establish an inclusive and expanded Parliament and a Unity Government. The Assembly **ENCOURAGES** the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS) to continue with their efforts, and **URGES** all Somali stakeholders that have not yet done so to commit themselves to dialogue and join the peace process. The Assembly **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** those elements seeking to undermine the peace efforts, as well as peace and stability in the region as a whole, and **EXPRESSES ITS FULL SUPPORT** for the decision by IGAD, as endorsed by the PSC, to impose targeted sanctions on all those intent on undermining the ongoing efforts;

7. **WELCOMES** the election of a new President for Somalia which represents a major breakthrough in the peace process and EXPRESSES its satisfaction over this latest development; URGES all Somali stakeholders to work with the TFG and join the peace process. The Assembly strongly CONDEMNS those elements that are undermining the peace efforts;

8. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the extension of the transitional period by two years and **CALLS ON** the international community to lend increased support to the TFG so that the progress achieved can be sustained in order to bring lasting and durable peace in the country;

9. **EXPRESS ITS FULL SUPPORT** for the decision of IGAD as endorsed by the PSC to impose targeted sanctions on all those intent on undermining the ongoing efforts;

10. **TAKES NOTE** of the completion by Ethiopia of the withdrawal of its forces from Somalia in line with the Djibouti Agreement and **REITERATES** AU's appreciation for the sacrifice made by Ethiopia and its commitment to the search for a lasting solution to the conflict in Somalia. The Assembly **PAYS TRIBUTE** to AMISOM and the Troop Contributing Countries, namely Burundi and Uganda, for their commitment to the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia;

11. **ALSO PAYS TRIBUTE** to the AU partners and Member States, in particular Algeria, for providing financial and/or logistical support to AMISOM, and **WELCOMES** the adoption by the UN Security Council, on 16 January 2009, of Resolution 1863(2008), in which it expressed its intent to establish a UN peacekeeping operation in Somalia as a follow-up to AMISOM, subject to a further decision by 1 June 2009, and authorized the provision of a support package to AMISOM. The Assembly **URGES** the Security Council to urgently adopt a resolution authorizing the deployment of the envisaged peacekeeping operation;

12. **REITERATES** its concern at the continued impasse in the peace process between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and **CALLS FOR** renewed efforts, including by the AU, to assist the two countries overcome the current situation, normalize their relations and lay the foundation for a comprehensive and lasting peace between them;

13. **FURTHER REITERATES ITS CONCERN** at the persisting tension at the border between Djibouti and Eritrea and in the relations between the two countries. The Assembly **RECALLS** the decision adopted by the PSC at its 138th Meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 29 June 2008, as well as its own decision on the matter. In this respect, the Assembly **WELCOMES** the efforts being deployed by members of the international community, including the adoption by the UN Security Council, on 14 January 2008, of resolution 1862(2008), which, *inter alia*, demanded that Eritrea withdraw its forces and all their military hardware to the *status quo ante* position, acknowledge its border dispute with Djibouti, engage actively in dialogue to defuse the tension, as well as in diplomatic efforts leading to a mutually acceptable settlement, and abide by its obligations as a member of the United Nations. The Assembly **CALLS FOR** speedy implementation of this resolution and **REQUESTS** the Commission to maintain consultations with the United Nations and other stakeholders, with a view of contributing to the early resolution of this conflict;

14. **WELCOMES** the efforts invested towards successful outcome of the process of implementing the agreements concluded between the Government of Burundi and PALIPEHUTU/FNL in June and September 2006 respectively, particularly the Declaration adopted by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes Region, held in Bujumbura on 4 December 2008, and subsequent developments, especially the change of the appellation of PALIPEHUTU/FNL and the release of political prisoners and prisoners of war, as well as the commitment by the parties to resolve all the outstanding issues before 15 February 2009 ;

15. **WELCOMES** the developments in the peace process in the East of the DRC, particularly since the conclusion of the Agreement between the Congolese and Rwandese Governments in Goma on 5 December 2008. The Assembly **URGES** both Governments to speed up the implementation of the Nairobi Agreement of 2007 and **CALLS UPON** the Congolese parties to the Goma process to scrupulously implement the *Actes d'engagement* emanating from that process;

16. **STRESSES** the need for continued efforts to ensure the timely and faithful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), and **COMMENDS** the parties to the CPA for their commitment and spirit of cooperation. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the progress made during the period under review, particularly with respect to the preparation of the national elections scheduled to take place in 2009, and the implementation of the Abyei Roadmap of 8 June 2008;

17. **EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN** at the deteriorating security situation in Darfur and **CALLS UPON** all the parties to exercise restraint so as to create propitious climate for the start of political talks. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the laudable efforts deployed by the United Nations and the African Union, including through the Joint Chief Mediator, Mr. Djibrill Bassole, in concert with the authorities of Qatar, within the framework of the Afro-Arab Peace Initiative, to get the parties to the conflict to sign a framework agreement together with cessation of hostilities agreement, and **URGES** them to participate, without delay and without preconditions, in the meeting which the Mediator plans to convene in Doha in the very near future. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the recommendations of the "Forum of the people of Sudan" and **ENCOURAGES** the Sudanese Government to pursue implementation of these recommendations so as to build trust and confidence among the parties and enhance the search for a lasting solution to the crisis in Darfur. The Assembly **ALSO WELCOMES** the progress achieved in the deployment of MINUAD, and **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the Sudanese Government's cooperation in this regard;

18. **EXPRESSES SERIOUS CONCERN** at the current tension in the relations between The Sudan and Chad and **APPEALS** to both countries to exercise restraint and work towards consolidation of the gains made thanks to the initiatives of the Contact Group set up in pursuance of the Dakar Agreement of March 2008. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the dispatch by the Chairperson of the Commission of a high-level delegation led by President Pierre Buyoya as a follow up to the decision adopted by the PSC at its 138th Meeting held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 29 June 2008. It **REQUESTS** the PSC to meet as quickly as possible to consider this report and take appropriate action;

19. **WELCOMES** the holding and the outcomes of the Inclusive Political Dialogue (IPA) in the Central African Republic (CAR). **ENCOURAGES** the concerned parties to work together to implement the recommendations put forward by the IPD, and **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the deployment of the Peace Consolidation Mission of the Security Council in Central Africa (MICOPAX 1) to replace the CEMAC Multinational Force (FOMUC). The Assembly **WELCOMES** the support rendered by the African Union towards the peace consolidation process in the CAR in close cooperation with the region, the EU, the IOF and the United Nations, and **ENCOURAGES** it to persevere in its efforts;

20. **NOTES** that presidential election could not be held in Côte d'Ivoire as initially planned with the consensus of all the parties and **ENCOURAGES** the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to expeditiously set fresh dates for the election, on the proposal of the Independent Electoral Commission, and to take all appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the dates so fixed. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the signing on 22 December 2008, of the 4th Supplementary Agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement which helped to find a solution to the outstanding issues, notably matters relating to the defence and security forces and the effective restoration of State authority throughout the national territory;

21. **WELCOMES** the continued progress being made in the post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Liberia, and **URGES** the international community to continue to provide sustained efforts to Liberia. The Assembly **WELCOMES** the decision of the Chairperson of the Commission to dispatch a multi-disciplinary team of experts to assess the post-conflict reconstruction needs of Liberia and Sierra Leone and make recommendations on how the AU and its Member States could best support the country;

22. **NOTES** that the AU/UN Panel established to make concrete recommendations on how the UN and the AU could explore the possibility of enhancing the predictability and sustainability of financing UN-mandated peace operations undertaken by the AU, has now submitted its report. The Assembly **REQUESTS** the PSC to meet as early as possible to review the Report and submit its input prior to its consideration by the UN Security Council. The Assembly **REQUESTS** that the African Members of the UN Security Council, as well as South Africa, which led the process that resulted in the establishment of the Panel, participate fully in the proposed meeting of the PSC. The Assembly **MANDATES** the Africa Group in New York and the African Members of the UN Security Council to vigorously pursue this matter within the UN;

23. **STRESSES** the importance of the annual meetings between the AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council.

DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL RELATING TO THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP) DOC. EX.CL/459 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the Review of the Protocol relating to the Pan African Parliament (PAP);

2. **AUTHORIZES** the Commission to initiate the review process of the Protocol to the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to draft and finalize the Terms of Reference for the review in consultation with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC), taking into account the views of PAP;

4. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to carry out a comprehensive study on the review of the Protocol based on terms of reference, taking into account the views of the PAP and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the African Union (AU) Policy Organs, through the PRC, for consideration at their next ordinary sessions in July 2009;

5. **ALSO REQUESTS** PAP to amend its Rules of Procedure to conform to the legal instruments of the AU;

6. **FINALLY REQUESTS** PAP to urgently fix a term limit for its Bureau drawing inspiration from other AU organs and to immediately hold new elections to renew the mandate of the current Bureau or elect a new one.

DECISION ON ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION ADVISORY BOARD ON CORRUPTION DOC. EX.CL/492 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. **APPOINTS** the following persons elected by the Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council as members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption:

	Names	Country
1.	Mr. Nabil HATTALI	(Algeria)
2.	Ms. Dorothy Nyagoha ANGOTE	(Kenya)
3.	Ms. Frene GINWALA	(South Africa)
4.	Ms. Henriette Tall DIOP	(Senegal)
5.	Mr. Léonidas HAVYARIMANA	(Burundi)
6.	Mr. Costantinos Berhé TESFU	(Ethiopia)
7.	Ms. Jane Mayemu ANSAH	(Malawi)
8.	Mr. Simon-Pierre NZOBABELA	(Congo)
9.	Mr. Mazou Seidou ADAMOU	(Niger)
10.	Mr. James KAHOOZA	(Uganda)
11.	Mr. Paulus Kalonho NOA	(Namibia)

DECISION ON THE THIRD WORLD FESTIVAL OF NEGRO ARTS (FESMAN III)

The Assembly:

1. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Republic of Senegal for its initiative to organize the Third Edition of the World Festival of Negro Arts (FESMAN III) in Dakar from 1 to 21 December 2009, following the 1966 and 1977 editions of the Festival held in Senegal and Nigeria, respectively;

2. **RECOGNIZES** that this Festival contributes to the fostering of African Renaissance and the socio-economic integration of the Continent. It also facilitates the development of fraternal and friendly relations between Africans in the Continent and Africans in the Diaspora, and of mutual understanding among the peoples of the world;

3. **EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT** for the Declaration adopted by African Ministers of Culture at their meeting held in Algiers, Algeria, from 19 to 23 October 2008;

4. **INVITES** all men and women of culture, artists and creators from Member States and the African Diaspora to participate massively in the activities and programmes of the Third World Festival of Negro Arts;

5. **REQUESTS** Member States and Africa's partners to lend their support towards the process of preparation of FESMAN III;

6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to take all appropriate measures, in consultation with the Government of Senegal, to organize and implement the conclusions of this Festival.

DECISION ON THE DRAFT STATUTES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN INVESTMENT BANK

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Draft Statutes on the Establishment of the African Investment Bank;

2. **URGES** Member States to communicate their responses on the proposed draft Statutes on th Establishment of the African Investment Bank to the Commission by May 2009;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to convene a meeting of legal and finance experts to be followed by Ministerial Conference to consider the draft Statutes;

4. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to host the experts meeting in May 2009;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to present the draft Statutes to the next Conference of African Ministers Economy and Finance and thereafter to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly, in July 2009 f consideration.

DECISION ON THE SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES (STCS)
DOC. EX.CL/496 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on Specialised Technical Committees (STCs);

2. **DECIDES** to reconfigure the STCs as follows:

   (1) Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment;
   (2) Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration;
   (3) Committee on Trade and Industry and Minerals;
   (4) Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructures, Energy and Tourism;
   (5) Committee on Gender and Women Empowerment;
   (6) Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs;
   (7) Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment;
   (8) Committee on the Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization;
   (9) Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control;
   (10) Committee on Migration, Refugees and IDPs;
   (11) Committee on Youth, Culture and Sports;
   (12) Committee on Education, Science and Technology;
   (13) Committee on Communication and ICT;
   (14) Committee on Defence, Safety and Security.

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare a detailed breakdown of the financial implications of STCs meetings getting out the figures if the STCs were to be convened on an annual or biennial basis;

4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to prepare detailed activities of the STCs with a view to avoiding overlap and ensuring coherence and harmony with the portfolios of the Commission;

5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to work with the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) and make appropriate recommendations on the periodicity of the meetings of the STCs to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly through the Executive Council in July 2009.

DECISION ON THE SECOND PAN AFRICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL
Doc EX.CL/475 (XIV)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the second African Union Conference of Ministers of Culture, which took place in Algiers, from 19 to 23 October 2008, notably the item on the organisation, by Algeria, of the second Pan African Cultural Festival;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the statement by the Algerian delegation on Algeria's state of readiness for organizing the second Pan-African Cultural Festival;

3. **ENDORSES** the date for the organization of the Second Pan-African Cultural Festival in Algiers, from 5 to 20 July 2009;

4. **INVITES** Member States and the Diaspora to ensure effective participation in the second Pan African Cultural Festival;

5. **INVITES** African Union Ministers of Culture to attend the opening ceremony of the festival in Algiers;

6. **URGES** the Commission to give effective support to ensure the successful organization, by Algeria, of the Second Pan African Cultural Festival;

7. **EXTENDS** its congratulations to Algeria for the efforts made towards the organization of this Pan-African Cultural Festival and for its significant contribution to Africa's Cultural Renaissance.

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN WOMEN'S DECADE

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the Executive Council on the African Women's Decade;

2. **DECLARES** 2010-2020 as the African Women's Decade;

3. **CALLS ON** Member States and AU Organs and Regional Economic Communities to support the implementation of Decade activities.

DECISION ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (XII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government on the Reform of the United Nations (UN) Security Council;

2. **REAFFIRMS** the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the Reform of the United Nations Security Council adopted in Sirte in July 2005;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to facilitate the activities of the African Permanent Representatives of the Committee of Ten to the United Nations to enable them actively engage in one voice in the inter-governmental negotiations and to coordinate with other groups on the basis of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration;

4. **ALSO REQUESTS** the African Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the Committee of Ten to liaise regularly with their respective counter parts to the African Union as well as the other African Permanent Representatives to the UN on the ongoing inter-governmental negotiations taking place in New York;

5. **REITERATES** that the Committee of Ten remains seized of this matter until Africa achieves its objectives on the reform of the UN Security Council;

6. **FINALLY REQUESTS** the Committee of Ten to present a progress report to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2009.

DECISION ON THE FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2009

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Statement of the Chairperson of the Commission on the Food Security situation in the world;

2. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** at the prevailing food security situation in the world and in particular on the African Continent;

3. **NOTES** and **WELCOMES** the proposal by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to organise a World Summit on Food Security in November 2009;

4. **RECALLS** the Decision adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 8 to 11 July 2003 to adopt the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as the strategic framework for agricultural development and food security on the Continent;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to collaborate with FAO and other partners for the success of this Summit.

DECISION ON THE THEMES OF JULY 2009, JANUARY 2010 AND JULY 2010 SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Commission on the themes of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly scheduled respectively for July 2009, January 2010 and July 2010;

2. **DECIDES** that the themes for these Sessions will be as follows:

   i. Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: *"Investing in Agriculture for Economic Growth and Food Security"*;

   ii. Fourteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: *"Information and Communication Technologies in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development"*;

   iii. Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: *"Maternal, Infant and Child Health and Development in Africa"*.

DECISION ON THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY ON THE UNION GOVERNMENT

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** its decision adopted during its Special Session on the Union Government held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 1 February 2009, to transform the African Union Commission into the African Union Authority;

2. **FURTHER RECALLS** its directive to the Executive Council to elaborate upon this decision;

3. **TAKES NOTE** and **DECIDES** to endorse the recommendation of the Executive Council, which reads as follows:

"Pursuant to the Decision of the Assembly directing the Executive Council to elaborate upon its decision regarding the establishment of the African Union Authority:

The Executive Council received the decision:

1. *to transform the African Union Commission into an African Union Authority;*
2. *to strengthen the AU Authority;*
3. *that the Authority shall have a structure comprising of the President, the Vice President and Secretaries with portfolios based on areas of shared competencies as agreed upon.*

The Executive Council further took note of the Report submitted to it by the AU Commission in response to the decision of the Assembly.

The Executive Council recommended as follows:

1. *In order to transform the AUC into an Authority, the Constitutive Act should be amended in accordance with the provisions of Article 32 of the said Act and, thereafter, call upon Member States to expedite the ratification of the amendments;*

2. *There is a need to further study the proposals contained in the Report of the Commission with special regard to:*

   a. *The functions of the African Union Authority;*
   b. *The size of the Authority;*
   c. *The functions of the Secretaries;*
   d. *The financial implications of establishing such Authority.*

In view of the above, the Executive Council requests the Assembly to note that the time allocated for this assignment was inadequate. The Executive Council, therefore, recommends that the Assembly allows time for an Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council to be convened within the next three months to consider these proposals and submit a Report to the next Assembly."

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AFRICAN PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE AFRICAN FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XII) Add.4

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the conclusions and recommendations of the Sixth World Forum on Sustainable Development held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, from 27 to 30 October 2008;

2. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to take into account the initiatives to promote the harmonious and sustainable development of the Continent;

3. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to be represented by a single delegation in order to negotiate with one voice at international conferences on sustainable development related issues;

4. **ENDORSES** the recommendations of the Sixth World Forum on Sustainable Development concerning the establishment of an African Permanent Secretariat for Sustainable Development and an African Fund for Sustainable Development;

5. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Republic of Congo to host the Headquarters of the African Permanent Secretariat for Sustainable Development and the offer by Burkina Faso to host the Second Session of the African Forum on Sustainable Development in October 2009, and **URGES** Member States to participate in the Forum;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other relevant institutions to carry out feasibility studies on the establishment of an African Permanent Secretariat for Sustainable Development as well as the African Fund for Sustainable Development and report thereon to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly in January 2010.

DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA TO HOST THE AFRICAN OBSERVATORY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
Doc. Assembly/AU/8(XII) Add.5

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal by the Government of Equatorial Guinea to host the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation;

2. **RECALLS** the AU Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.161 (VIII) declaring 2007 as the launching year of building constituencies and champions for science, technology and innovation in Africa;

3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that Member States and the RECs, as the chief stakeholders, should take the lead in the domestication of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) and foster its implementation throughout its Lighthouse Projects;

4. **RECOGNIZES** the need to establish an African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation and its role in promoting science and technology for the sustainable development of the Continent;

5. **WELCOMES** the commitment and proposal by the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to host the African Observatory of science, technology and innovation as part of the Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) implementation, as approved by the AU Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, in January 2007;

6. **APPRECIATES** the offer of Equatorial Guinea consisting in providing office space and a financial contribution in the amount of US$ 3,600,000 for the implementation of the African Observatory project under the supervision and management of the AUC;

7. **INVITES** Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UNESCO, the European Union (EU), non-governmental organizations and partners to support this African initiative including with financial assistance in order to ensure its sustainability;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work closely with the Government of Equatorial Guinea, UN agencies and other stakeholders to supervise and manage the establishment of the African Observatory of science, technology and innovation in Equatorial Guinea.

DECISION ON THE AFRICAN COMMON POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (XII) Add.6

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Declaration of the Algerian delegation on the deliberations of the Confe African Ministers of Environment on climate change, held in Algiers from 19 to 23 2008;

2. **RECALLS** that it is in his capacity as Chairperson of the African Group, during the Bali Confer Climate Change, that Algeria organized the Conference of African Ministers of Environment on Change;

3. **APPROVES** the Algiers Declaration on Climate Change adopted in the form of the Commor Position to serve as the platform of the Common African Position for African countries in the ne process for the new global climate change regime for the period after 2012, the year of expi Kyoto Protocol;

4. **RECALLS** that the international negotiations on climate change are expected to be held u auspices of the United Nations;

5. **EMPHASIZES** that the global carbon trading mechanisms that are expected to emerge from inte negotiations on climate change should give Africa an opportunity to demand and get compens the damage to its economy caused by global warming and **UNDERLINES** in this regard the despite contributing virtually nothing to global warming Africa has been one of the primary victi consequences;

6. **APPROVES** that Africa needs to be represented by one delegation which is empowered to nego behalf of all Member States, with the mandate to ensure that resource flow to Africa is not reduc **MANDATES** the Commission to work out modalities of such representation and report to ordinary session of the Assembly in July 2009;

7. **INVITES** AU Member States to promote the Algiers Declaration within the framework of their part in the World Summit on Climate Change, scheduled to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to make the Algiers Declaration a working document on the issue o changes.

DECISION ON THE CANDIDATURE OF MR. FAROUK HOSNI TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE UNESCO

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of Algiers Declaration adopted by the Second Conference of Ministers of Culture (CAMC II) held in Algiers, Algeria, from 19 to 23 October 2008, which supported and endorsed the candidature of Mr. Farouk Hosni, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the post of Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);

2. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.484 (XIV) on African Candidatures for Posts within the International System, which took note of the Algiers Declaration endorsing this candidature;

3. **ENDORSES** the candidature of Mr. Farouk Hosni, Minister of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the post of Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and **INVITES** Member States to support this candidature.

DECISION ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE THIRTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly,

1. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Republic of Madagascar to host the Thirteenth Ordinary Session Assembly of the African Union in Antananarivo, Madagascar;

2. **DECIDES** that the dates of the Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly will be as follows:

   (i) Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee: 24-25 June 2009

   (ii) Fifteenth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council: 28-29 June 2009;

   (iii) Thirteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly: 1-3 July 2009.

DECISION ON THE THREAT OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN AFRICA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the concern expressed by both the Chairperson of the Commission and the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) in their speeches at the opening session of the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Assembly, on the increasing threat of drug trafficking in Africa, particularly in West Africa;

2. **RECOGNIZES** that this phenomenon is becoming a major challenge to security and governance in Africa, in general and West Africa in particular;

3. **COMMENDS** the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for its concerted efforts and actions to combat drug trafficking in the West Africa region;

4. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the International Community, particularly UN and individual partner countries for the assistance provided in this area;

5. **CALLS ON** all Member States to join in the fight against drug trafficking in all regions of the Continent;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with the UN, its Specialized Agency on Drug Control (UNODC), as well as ECOWAS and other Regional Economic Communities to intensify the fight against drug trafficking in Africa.

DECISION ON THE HISSENE HABRE CASE

The Assembly,

1. **RECALLS** its Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.127(VII) taken in Banjul, the Gambia, in July 2006 manda the Republic of Senegal "to prosecute and ensure that Hissène Habré is tried, on behalf of Africa, b competent Senegalese court with guarantees for fair trail";

2. **REITERATES** its commendation of the Government of the Republic of Senegal for having ta constitutional, legal and regulatory measures to carry out the mandate;

3. **TAKES NOTE** that despite the establishment of the budget for the case by the European Union, wh offered to be partner, together with the Government of the Republic of Senegal, the resources needed the prosecution are not yet available;

4. **CONSIDERS** that the final budget of the case should be prepared and adopted by the African Union conjunction with the Government of the Republic of Senegal and the European Union;

5. **CALLS ON** all Member States of the African Union, the European Union and partner countries institutions to make their contributions to the budget of the case by paying these contributions directl the African Union Commission;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report on the status of execution of this Decision to the 13th Assembl the African Union.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE ON NEPAD
Assembly/ AU/12 (XII)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** the report by the Chairperson of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, H.E. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

2. **ENDORSES** the conclusion of the 20th NEPAD HSGIC Summit;

3. **RE-AFFIRMS** the 13-point conclusion of the Algeries NEPAD Brainstorming Summit of March 2007, subsequently reinforced by the outcomes of the Dakar NEPAD Review Summit of April 2008 and FURTHER REITERATES that the Algiers and Dakar outcomes constitute the basis and roadmap for AU/NEPAD Integration, with the necessary flexibilities as underlined in the 2003 Maputo AU Assembly decision;

4. **WELCOMES** the commencement of the Study on the structure and profile of the incoming NEPAD Authority following the appointment of the Consultant in December 2008;

5. **RE-EMPHASIZES** the need for the Consultancy-Study, to be guided, in particular, by the Algiers and Dakar Outcomes and **AGREES** that the Consultant's Draft Report and Recommendations on AU/NEPAD Integration should be circulated to all AU/NEPAD governance structures, for consideration, to ensure broad and adequate consultation, before submission to the Assembly, for final pronouncement;

6. **REITERATES** that the NEPAD vision and its program, from inception, has been an intrinsic part of the African Union System and should remain so, and **CALLS UPON** the African Union Commission and NEPAD Secretariat to harmonize their work programs and smoothen working relations in the interim period leading to integration;

7. **NOTES** the urgency of an early conclusion of the integration process and **AGREES** that the whole process of Integration of NEPAD into the Structures and Processes of the African Union, should be completed prior to the next 13th Assembly in June/July 2009;

8. **URGES** all Member States, who are yet to submit their suggestions on the structure and profile of the NEPAD Authority to the African Union Commission, to do so as soon as possible;

9. **WELCOMES** and **ENDORSES** the appointment of **Dr. Ibrahim Hassan Mayaki of the Republic of Niger** as the new Chief Executive Officer for NEPAD Secretariat in line with the 10th African Union Assembly decision of January 2008 and **ENTRUSTS** him with the mandate to lead the transformation of the NEPAD Secretariat into the NEPAD Authority;

10. **WELCOMES** the singing of the Host Agreement for the NEPAD Secretariat in October 2008 and **COMMENDS** the South African Government and African Union Commission for facilitating the conclusion of the Agreement, which grants legal status to the Secretariat as an international organization in South Africa **WHILE URGING** the promote and smooth implementation of the Agreement;

11. **DECIDES** that the NEPAD Secretariat will, henceforth, use the African Union emblem, concurrently with the NEPAD Emblem in all documentation, so as to retain the brand identity of NEPAD and the existing reporting structures of the Secretariat, pending the final determination on the NEPAD Authority;

12. **APPEALS** to all Member States to continue to donate generously towards the budget of the NEPAD Secretariat in the transition period to integration, to enable it continue to perform its programmatic operations, and **STRONGLY URGES** Member States who are yet to fulfill their pledged contributions made at the January 2008 10th AU Assembly, to do so;

13. **EMPHASIZES** and **DIRECTS** the Consultancy-Study on the NEPAD Authority to recommend and identify effective, innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms and sources for the NEPAD Authority;

14. **AGREES** on the need for continued interaction and strengthened engagement with the G8/OECD Partner Countries, **UNDERSCORING** the essence of institutionaiizing the Follow-Up Mechanism, which was agreed to at the 2008 Hokkaido Toyoda G8 Summit in Japan, as a means of stimulating better G8-Africa Outreach engagement; and **PROPOSES** that Africa's representation and agenda at upcoming G8-Africa Outreach should reflect a systemized and institutionalized arrangement;

15. **NOTES** the 2008 Report on the Mutual Review of development Effectiveness (MRDE), jointly produced by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as presented by the Executive Secretary of the UN-ECA, Mr. Abdoulie Janneh and **REQUESTS** Member States to study the Report and offer their views to the African Union Commission and NEPAD Secretariat, for discussion at the next NEPAD Summit;

16. **EXPRESSES** appreciation to the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Secretariat, Ambassador Olukorede Willoughby and Dr. Hesphina Rukato, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, comprising the interim management team, for their dedication and diligence in leading the Secretariat for the past one year.

DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA ON THE ISSUE OF PALESTINE

The Assembly:

TAKES NOTE of the proposal of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the issue of Palestine.

DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN AFRICA
Doc. Assembly/AU/9 (XII)

WE, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at our Twelfth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 1 to 3 February 2009;

CONSIDERING the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community adopted in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 1991;

BEARING in mind the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted in Lomé, Togo, on 11 July 2000;

CONSIDERING the Decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008 to organize the Twelfth Assembly of the African Union on the theme: Infrastructure Development in Africa;

CONSIDERING the declarations of the various African Union Conferences of Ministers responsible for Transport and Energy, endorsed by the Executive Council;

CONSIDERING the vital role of infrastructure and related services in the political and socio-economic development and the integration of the Continent, as well as in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

RECOGNIZING the need to speed up development of infrastructure as well as energy and transport services in Africa, and to put in place harmonized sector policies and programmes;

WELCOMING the various initiatives on infrastructure development in Africa, including:

1. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
2. The Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA);
3. The Africa-European Union Infrastructure and Energy Partnerships, as defined in the New European Union Strategy for Africa;

CONCERNED BY:

1. The slow pace of implementation of the NEPAD Infrastructure Short-Term Action Plan;

2. The enormity of gaps in transport and energy infrastructure in Africa and the huge financing needs of these infrastructure;

3. The high costs of energy and transport services in Africa, which are seriously affecting the competitiveness of the Continent;

4. The qualitative and quantitative shortage of energy supply;

5. The poor access of African populations to modern energy and transport services, particularly for the low-income social segments;

6. The formality constraints to inter-State transit in Africa, particularly the proliferation and complexity of cross-border procedures;

7. The slow pace of implementation by Member States of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Liberalization of Access to Air Transport Markets in Africa;

8. The poor resource mobilization for preparation and implementation of infrastructure projects;

9. The deteriorating transport safety and security situation particularly in the maritime and air transport sub-sectors;

10. The impact of the global financial crisis on infrastructure development in Africa;

UNDERSCORING:

1. The leadership, coordination, harmonization, facilitation and advocacy roles devolving on the African Union Commission in building economic infrastructure for Africa's development;

2. The decisive role of the Regional Economic Communities and specialized Institutions in the implementation of the programmes for development of transport and energy infrastructure;

3. The need to establish and strengthen the institutional coordination structures of the various actors for implementation of infrastructure development policies and programmes in Africa;

4. The role of the private sector in the development of transport and energy infrastructure in Africa;

REAFFIRM:

1. Our determination to pool our efforts to develop efficient infrastructure networks as well as affordable transport and energy services;

2. The urgent need to enhance access to transport and energy infrastructure and services for the majority of the African population;

UNDERTAKE TO:

1. Include in our national priorities the various regional and continental interconnection infrastructure network projects and programmes;

2. Harmonize regulations and standards to promote interconnection, and efficient operation of networks and market development;

3. Create appropriate institutional framework for development of the major integration projects and carry out the necessary reforms to ensure better operation and maintenance of these projects;

4. Contribute financially to the NEPAD Infrastructure Projects Preparation Facility;

5. Increase public financing of infrastructure and promote public-private partnerships to speed up the development of transport and energy infrastructure;

6. Enhance the production of and inter-State trade in energy by implementing major integrative hydroelectric power projects and high capacity oil refineries as well as gas and oil pipelines projects;

7. Develop renewable energy resources in order to provide clean, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly energy;

8. Enhance institutional and research capacities to develop a non-traditional alternative source of energy to meet Africa's long-term energy needs, more specifically nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;

9. Accelerate the facilitation of inter-State transport through harmonization of laws and simplification of transit procedures to promote efficiency and safe operation of transport in Africa;

10. Improve connectivity of the air transport networks between Member States of the Union through comprehensive implementation of the 1999 Yamoussoukro Decision;

11. Give high priority to environmental protection and to transport and energy safety and security to promote sustainable development of infrastructure and related services;

RESOLVE TO:

1. Support the development of infrastructure in Africa within the framework of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);

2. Develop, as a matter of priority, the major regional and continental hydroelectric power projects, to ensure energy security in Africa;

3. Take all appropriate measures to complete the missing sections in the major transport corridors and remove all physical and non-physical barriers to the development of inter-State transport in Africa;

4. Institute appropriate institutional, legal and regulatory reforms, conducive for private sector investment in infrastructure development;

5. Promote innovative financing mechanisms to speed up the development of transport and energy infrastructure;

INVITE the African Union Commission to take all necessary measures to:

1. Formulate and implement, under its coordination, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa as well as capacity building in the transport and energy sectors;

2. Take appropriate measures to promote the execution of integrative hydroelectric power interconnection projects;

3. Speed up the facilitation of inter-State trade in Africa;

4. Promote projects and strategies aimed at enhancing connectivity as well as safety and security in the transport sector;

URGE:

1. Member States of the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities to foster inter-African and international cooperation in the transport and energy sectors;

2. The African Union Commission to deploy its best efforts to ensure expeditious implementation of this Declaration.

LAUNCH AN APPEAL to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union and all development partners to support the implementation of this Declaration.

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

PREAMBLE

WE, African Heads of State and Government, meeting on 3 February 2009 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia have considered the unfolding of the current international financial crisis and its economic and social implications for our countries;

CONSCIOUS of the fact that the current international financial crisis will continue to slow down global demand for basic commodities, reduce the volume of capital flows, both public and private, towards Africa, and affect the competitiveness of our economies;

CONCERNED over the fact that the development and scope of this crisis continue to slow down economic growth, further worsen our balance of payments situation, aggravate our budget deficits and turn round our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

COMMENDING the various initiatives being taken worldwide and in Africa to mitigate the contagious effects of the crisis and contain its impacts;

REFERRING to the content of the final Communiqué issued by the Extraordinary Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and Governors of Central Banks held on 12 November 2008 in Tunis, Tunisia;

REFERRING to the content of the final Communiqué issued by the meeting of the Committee of Ten, held on 16 January 2008 in Cape Town, South Africa;

RECALLING the commitments of our States to promote the development and integration of African economies, notably through the establishment of three financial institutions, namely the African Monetary Fund, the African Central Bank and the African Investment Bank, which will monitor and coordinate African responses to future crises;

DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **RECOGNIZE** the need to strengthen all efforts aimed at mobilizing additional resources and **UNDERSCORE** the necessity to pursue the sound regulation of the African financial system and step up financial supervision;

2. **ENCOURAGE** the strengthening of measures taken by our Governments, regional and continental organizations as well as international institutions to notably enhance the mobilization of domestic resources and stabilize our finances to prevent a deep slowdown and economic upheavals;

3. **CALL FOR** equally vigorous, flexible and innovative action to be taken to address the threats posed by the current crisis to growth and Africa's development;

4. **EXPRESS** our satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation between the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in Africa's mobilization against the current financial crisis, and call for the continued mutual exchange of information and ideas on the situation;

5. **SUPPORT** the Communiqué issued by the G20 on 15 November 2008 appealing to the international financial institutions to play an anti-cyclical role in support of the public and private sectors, transcending their traditional role of stimulators of economic growth;

6. **COMMEND** the African Development Bank for the responses proposed through the Emergency Liquidity Facility (ELF), the Trade Financing Initiative (TFI) and other innovative programmes to help African countries in mitigating the effects of the crisis;

7. **INVITE** the shareholders of the African Development Bank to consider as a priority increasing the capital of the Bank so that it can further step up its support to our countries, while respecting their diversity and according to their needs;

8. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to the integration of African stock exchanges which can help to boost efficiency in the mobilization of domestic resources;

9. **REMAIN FERVENTLY CONVINCED** that, through voluntary policies, we can mitigate the worst effects of the crisis and defend our priorities and concerns within the scope of the ongoing global dialogue which aims to reform the international monetary and financial system;

10. **CONVINCED** of Africa's role in the resolution of the crisis, **DEPLORE** the fact that Africa was totally marginalised in the deliberations which led to the establishment of the current international financial system, giving rise to a situation that encouraged the present financial crisis;

11. **EXPRESS** our gratitude to South Africa as a member of G20 for having clearly expressed Africa's opinions during the G20 process;

12. **REITERATE** our call for an in-depth reform of the global financial system, based on an inclusive approach which fully integrates, in all legitimacy, the voice of Africa;

13. **REAFFIRM** that Africa must be fully represented in deliberations on the financial crisis while calling for the G20 framework to be revised to include all the Member States of the United Nations System. In the meantime, the African Union should have a seat at the G20;

14. **RECOGNIZE** the need to speed up the economic integration of the Continent to highlight the enormous resilience potential of the African Continent by giving concrete expression to political and economic integration;

15. **INVITE** the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities, the African Union Member States and all the other stakeholders to quickly finalise the Minimum Integration Programme and diligently carry out its concerted implementation with the aim of integrating our continent politically and economically;

16. **INVITE** the African Union Commission to fast track and quickly finalise the preparatory work for the establishment of the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund and the African Central Bank;

17. **INVITE** the African Union Commission to put in place an appropriate multilateral monitoring system for the continent, geared towards providing coherent statistical information on the macroeconomic and financial development of African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities, with a view to establishing the African Central Bank leading up to the creation of a single African currency.

18. **CALL** for a real voice to be given to Africa in the reform of the international financial institutions aimed at better management of economic shocks and ensuring predictability of resource flows and the effectiveness of aid;

19. **UNDERLINE** the need for improvement of the effectiveness of aid to Africa including by removing outdated conditionalities on aid and ensuring objectivity and transparency in the determination of criteria for resource flows from international financial institutions to Africa;

20. **UNDERLINE FURTHER** that the current global financial crisis should not be used as an excuse to cut development assistance to Africa and insists that developed countries ought to give no less attention to the needs of African countries than they have given to their financial institutions that have encountered crisis;

21. **RECALL** that the international negotiations on climate change are expected to be held under the auspices of the United Nations;

22. **EMPHASIZE** that the Global carbon trading mechanisms that are expected to emerge from international negotiations on climate change should give Africa an opportunity to demand and get compensation for the damage to its economy caused by global warming and underlines in this regard the fact that despite Africa contributing virtually nothing to global warming has been one of the primary victims of its consequences;

23. **CONVINCED** that Africa needs to be represented by one delegation which is empowered to negotiate on behalf of all Member States, with the mandate to ensure that resource flow to Africa is not reduced. **MANDATE** the African Union Commission to work out modalities of such representation and report thereon to the next Summit;

24. **UNDERLINE FURTHER** that the current fall in consumer demand, particularly in developed countries, resulting in job losses do not result in protectionism that would exclude products, particularly from Africa and the developing world;

25. **REAFFIRM** that the Doha Development Round be completed to ensure that the developing countries have access to the markets of the developed world.

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO H.E. MR. BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Assembly of the African Union meeting in its 12th Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, wishes to congratulate H.E. Mr. Barack Obama over his resounding victory and assumption of the High Office of President of the United States of America.

The Assembly wishes to underscore the great importance the African Union and its Member States attach to the strengthening and consolidation of relations with the United States of America, a great country which plays a leading role in world affairs.

The Assembly of the African Union is confident that under the dynamic and wise leadership of President Obama and with his reaffirmed commitment to the promotion of dialogue on all strategic issues of interest to the future of humanity and his sensitivity to the global challenges confronting the world, a new hope for change in the world would be created. Furthermore, this change will also create a conducive opportunity in boosting peace, security and sustainable development in the world and particularly in Africa for the benefit of all humanity.

While looking forward and committed to strengthening the excellent relations which exist between Africa and the United States of America, the Assembly welcomes the administration of President Obama which opens a new chapter for America, Africa and indeed the entire world.

Addis Ababa, 2 February 2009

MOTION

During the Session of the Assembly on 3rd February, 2009 the following motion was moved by a Member State for consideration of the Assembly;

"Yesterday, 2nd February, 2009, this Assembly was addressed by a so-called Representative of Traditional Kings of Africa. The action contravened the Rules of Procedure governing the conduct of business by the Assembly.

Rule No. 10, Sub-rule 3 states:

"The Assembly may invite any other personality to address the Assembly at the opening and closing ceremonies"

Rule No. 13 states:

"All the Sessions of the Assembly shall be closed. The Assembly may, however, decide by simple majority whether any of its sessions shall be open"

The above quoted Rules were flouted because at no point did the Assembly agree to invite the so-called Representative of Traditional Kings of Africa to address the Assembly".

The Assembly should therefore note that the address by the so-called Representative of the Traditional Kings of Africa contravened the Rules of Procedure and should be expunged from the records of the Assembly."

During the ensuing discussion, the motion was seconded and adopted by the Assembly on 3rd February 2009.

Addis Ababa, 3 February 2009